

RAINBOW! NEVER FORGET!!

REVEILLE

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CAMPAIGNS

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings Rainbow Nation and I hope everyone had a memorable 250th Independence Day with family and friends. As always there's plenty going on with the Foundation.

First and foremost, it's great to have the 42d Rainbow Division home safe and sound. Initially deployed to the Middle East for *Operation Spartan Shield* they became Army Central's (ARCENT) lead Army element when *Operation Epic Fury* kicked off. From all accounts their performance was superlative with more Rainbow history being made.



Mark your calendars as we will continue to celebrate their return Saturday 7 November at the Sagamore Hotel Lake George for the Division's Dining Out. In keeping with our charter of establishing and maintaining monuments and memorials we are in the process of forming a fundraising working group with plans on erecting a monument for the new Division Headquarters. At the same time, we are planning a restoration project at Camp Gruber, OK where the Division



mobilized and trained prior to WWII.

We are in the process of modernizing our RDVF merchandise and are in contract negotiations with a company by the name of Rucksack 4 Life. Pending Board approval, this will allow for tailored merchandise for the Division and it's Aligned for Training (AFT) Brigades.

Enough for now. "Rainbow – Never Forget!"

Harry Miller, RDVF Chair

Photo above: Maj. Gen. Jack James (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Arnold Reyes (right), the 42nd Infantry Division command team, ease the division's colors during the Task Force Spartan transfer of authority ceremony June 6 in the Middle East. The New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division headquarters served as the command for the Army's Middle Eastern combat element during Operation Epic Fury. (U.S. Army photo); 06-24-26 story by Eric Durr New York National Guard.
<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/568568/final-group-ny-army-guard-soldiers-return-home-after-participating-operation-epic-fury>

Photo right: On May 3, 2026, Ludwig and Evelin Stoeckl presented the RDVF Rainbow Wreath at the 81st Commemoration of the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp, now the Memorial Site; behind them are LTC Zachariah Fike, U.S. Army and (right), Lt. Col. Robert "Bob" Munson, USAF (Ret.); photo by LTC Robert Giordano, RDVF Memorials Officer.



In Remembrance of World War I Rainbow and all whose lives were forever transformed, photos 1 and 2 (U.S. Army photos by Mark Getman) Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Pat Alesia, president of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division Association, and Col. (Ret.) Bill Vorlicek, Downstate Chapter chairman, present the memorial wreath, and render a salute during a ceremony at the Rainbow Division Memorial near the former gate of Camp Mills in Garden City, N.Y., May 23, 2026.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nyng/albums/72177720333825086/>



Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, France, May 24, 2026 (photos by Béatrice Dahm); 6,013 World War I casualties and 241 names engraved on the Tablets of the Missing are under the care of this cemetery.



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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

We pray Thee, O God, let Thy strong hands guide the nations and bring forth out of discord a harmony more perfect than we can conceive. A new humility and understanding, a new purity and sincerity and a sense of reality and a longing for Thy love to rule on the earth.



Arthur G. Knehr, National Chaplain
WWI HQ Co, 149th Machine Gun Battalion, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow"
Division
[First printed in the March 1972 issue of The Rainbow REVEILLE]

Rainbow Reveille July 2026. Part I. From Valatie to Iraq: Troy Antal, the 42nd Infantry Division, and OIF III Jon Molik, RDVF Historian

Military history is often remembered through dates, campaigns, and unit movements, but it is carried forward by the Soldiers who lived it. For the 42nd Infantry Division, the story of *Operation Iraqi Freedom III* is not only a chapter in the Division's modern combat record but a collection of personal memories, hard lessons, and formative experiences that shaped a generation of Rainbow Soldiers.

This issue begins the first of a two-part interview with Troy Antal, whose career bridges two major periods in the recent history of the 42nd Infantry Division. In 2005, Antal deployed with the Division as a sergeant and intelligence analyst during *Operation Iraqi Freedom III*. More than two decades later, he deployed again with the 42nd Infantry Division in support of *Operation Spartan Shield* and *Operation Epic Fury*, this time as a sergeant major and the most senior intelligence noncommissioned officer in the New York Army National Guard (NYARNG).

The purpose of this two-part series is to capture that rare perspective - the view of a Rainbow Soldier who first served as a young analyst in a combat-zone headquarters, and later returned under the same patch as a senior leader responsible for guiding, protecting, and developing the next generation of intelligence Soldiers.

Part I focuses on Antal's early life, his path into military intelligence, the sudden change from a planned Balkans mission to Iraq, and the lessons he learned as a young noncommissioned officer during OIF III. His reflections show how the work of intelligence Soldiers inside a headquarters can have immediate consequences for Soldiers outside the wire, and how a young sergeant's deployment experience can shape an entire career of leadership.



Where are you from, and what was your life like before joining the Army?

[I am] from Valatie, NY, and joined the Army at 17 as part of the split training program. I returned from Basic [Combat] Training to finish high school. After graduating I left for Ft. Huachuca for intelligence training [as an all-source analyst]. (Valatie, NY, is located along the Hudson River in Columbia County approximately 25 miles south of Albany and 130 miles north of New York City.)

What first motivated you to join the Army, and why did you choose military intelligence?

I became interested in the Army and the split training program when an older friend in high school completed basic training and returned to my high school as part of the split training program. I became interested in military intelligence after doing some research once the recruiter told me that I could pick nearly any job [as a result of aptitude testing scores].

What do you remember most clearly about receiving word that you were deploying to Iraq with the 42nd Infantry Division?

I remember preparing for my first deployment with [the] 42ID with the plan to go to

Bosnia/Kosovo. We were a few months away and were in Europe to prepare and learn [the] intel mission for that region. We returned after the intel training and were notified we were going to Iraq instead.

How old were you during the 2005 OIF III deployment, and how prepared did you feel at the time?

I was 24. The last-minute change in the deployment did not allow for much time to prepare. That is probably why the 42ID spent several months at Ft. Drum preparing. I was part of the ADVON [Advanced Echelon] team and left Ft. Drum early to arrive in country. But once I arrived we discovered the main body would be delayed. We stayed in Kuwait for several months waiting. During that time we worked with the embassy intelligence team and truly learned a lot regarding the mission and situation. That time was extremely valuable and truly prepared me for the deployment.

What was your role in the current analysis cell, and what did a typical day look like?

In 2005 I was in the G2 current operations [cell]. We tracked the current fight. I worked from midnight to noon and a big part of my job was to track the overnight fighting and brief the CG (Commanding General – Major General Joseph Taluto) in the morning [on] what occurred the previous 12 hours. We would brief the CG at the map early in the morning then brief the staff at the Battle Update Brief mid-morning. Back then the G2 SGM (sergeant major) was SGM [Larry] Leonardo who significantly influenced my career and set the example for everyone to follow. He described the G2 /ACE (Analysis and Control Element—a separate section of analysts) relationship and jobs as similar to an Italian bakery. The ACE is the back part of the bakery using different ingredients and techniques to bake goods. Then the G2 Current OPS is the front retail part of the bakery that sells the product. I also remember tracking and creating a product called “Acts of Intimidation”. Anytime the enemy would use intimidation tactics to influence the new Iraqi political, military or civilian leadership we would track it and look for trends.

What was the most difficult part of being a young analyst in a combat-zone division headquarters?

The most difficult part was being a junior analyst in DIV HQ [was working] among so many high-ranking officers and NCOs. I realized their vast knowledge and experience so I took the opportunity to learn as much as possible from everyone.

Was there a moment in Iraq when you realized the work you were doing had real consequences for Soldiers outside the wire?

There was a time that the tracker I built for acts of intimidation indicated the enemy was trying to take control of a town. We were able to brief the commander of the increased threat. The commander decided to increase force protection levels for patrols in that town and increase activity to protect the town leadership. Some of the patrols were attacked but thankfully they were briefed and prepared so the attack did not cause any injuries.

What did you learn in 2005 about fear, responsibility, and decision-making?

I learned a lot in that deployment. Regarding fear, I learned that running in fear due to incoming rounds could lead to unnecessary injuries. I saw several soldiers run from incoming rocket and mortar rounds only to get injured by running towards the impact zone.

Regarding responsibility I learned a lot as a young SGT (sergeant) that had a young subordinate soldier that had several issues. I learned I had to truly look after him and help him

through a very difficult time. The soldier needed constant supervision, and it became my responsibility to look after him and his safety. Regarding decision making I learned to think outside the box and use creativity. During an unfortunate situation an ACE Soldier was seriously injured from an incoming rocket round. The round did not explode but it seriously injured his leg. I was nearby and witnessed a fellow G2 officer make a quick decision to use his belt as a tourniquet. The ACE soldier lost his leg but the quick, creative thinking, and decision making saved the life of that Soldier.

Looking back now, what do you think the younger version of yourself understood well, and what did he not yet understand?

My younger version understood the importance of shutting my mouth and listening to those around me. What I did not understand well was the importance of history. In that region, understanding the history and relationships between different groups is significant. I wish I spent more time reading and learning about the history of the region, culture, religion, and relationships.

Were there leaders from the 2005 deployment who influenced the NCO or senior leader you later became?

The G2 SGM, SGM Leonardo, was the biggest influence on me. For many reasons he truly influenced my career. He set the example at all time[s] of what a leader should be, know, and do. Many years later I was truly honored to have SGM (R) Leonardo attend my promotion to SGM.



Troy Antal’s memories of OIF III reveal a young Soldier learning quickly in an unforgiving environment. He entered the deployment as a sergeant working long overnight shifts in current operations, tracking the fight and preparing information that would move from the intelligence section to the commanding general and staff. But his recollections also show that the deployment was more than a technical intelligence mission. It was an education in leadership, fear, responsibility, humility, history, and the real human consequences of timely analysis.

In this first part of the interview, Antal’s story captures the character of the 42nd Infantry Division during one of the defining deployments of its modern era. The Division adjusted from one mission to another, prepared under pressure, and entered Iraq carrying the weight of a complex fight. In the next issue, the interview will continue two decades later, as Antal returns to the 42nd Infantry Division under the same Rainbow patch, but in a very different role. Part II will examine how the Army, military intelligence, and the character of combat changed between OIF III

and the Division's 2025–2026 mission in support of *Operation Spartan Shield* and *Operation Epic Fury*.

Photo 1 – Sergeant Troy Antal. Saddam Hussein Palace. Tikrit, Iraq. April 1, 2005.

Photo 2 – 42ID G2 Soldiers. Saddam Hussein Palace.

Tikrit, Iraq. March 4, 2005. From left to right,

1. Master Sergeant Gregory Lewis Seals

2. Sergeant Troy Antal

3. Captain FNU LNU

4. Staff Sergeant Matthew Heeran

5. Staff Sergeant FNU Diddy

6. Specialist David Breon

7. Lieutenant Jacob MacDougall

8. Captain Ken Kondo

9. Lieutenant Colonel Alden Saddlemire

10. Specialist Matthew Doyle

11. Sergeant First Class Richard Duncan

12. Lieutenant Eric Geoffrey

13. Sergeant First Class Thomas Lancaster

14. Specialist Karins Coons [Tirinato]

15. Sergeant Heather Spangler

THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP – 81 YEARS AGO

Robert B. Munson

“Dachau” brings to mind horrific images, but it is also a pleasant German town just north of Munich. For the Rainbow Division this place holds special significance. 81 years ago on April 29, 1945, Rainbow soldiers opened the gate on the prisoner side of the camp. With this, the division ended the cruelty of the Nazi regime in this, the first of the concentration camps.

Each year, the camp commemorates the liberation with a large ceremony on a Sunday close to the anniversary date – this time on the 3rd of May. Last year the 80th commemoration was a large affair; this year it was smaller, more intimate. Although the crowds were not as big, perhaps the ceremonies emphasized the meaning more as it was easier to start conversations and hear experiences from others.

Each year the Comité Internationale de Dachau (a Belgian organization representing the prisoners, survivors and victims) organizes a number of commemorative events in the days leading up to the main ceremony. Then on Sunday, the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site (*KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau*) sponsors some remembrances and then the main ceremony in the camp itself.

On Friday, not long after arriving in Dachau, I met several

people from the Comité who invited me to accompany them to two ceremonies at near-by cemeteries. I joined them and we were off on the bus.

The first ceremony was at the “*Leitenberg*”, a hill-top location just outside of the town. The concentration camp leadership began to bury bodies here in mass graves in February 1945 when the camp crematorium couldn't keep up. After the camp's liberation, the US Army buried another 2000 people here who had not

survived. The cemetery/memorial looks like a carefully tended botanical garden, with lush vegetation providing a final resting place for about 7600.

The bus then took us back into Dachau to a more



traditional cemetery, the *Waldfriedhof*, for a second ceremony. Here, you could walk across the ground and read headstones; each victim remained an individual with a story (even if unknown to us). This ceremony, like the one at the *Leitenberg*, was simple; a few words, laying the

wreaths and then a bugle highlighted the event.

I work for the US Army's 21st Theater Sustainment Command here in Germany and, courtesy of my commander, I was able to attend the weekend as an official US Army representative. My dad was a Rainbow soldier during the camp's liberation so my participation also held personal meaning, although on 29 April 1945 he was far to the north.

Sunday morning, I arrived early at the former concentration camp in my Air Force uniform. Even though I work for the Army, I retired from the Air Force and wore this uniform as a tribute to the 42nd Infantry Division soldiers. Despite the smaller ceremony, I also wanted it to be obvious that the US military was represented here. At the 80th ceremony, the day was wet and cold; this year the sun shone and it became pretty warm.

Early in the morning I attended the Ecumenical Service in the Carmelite Precious Blood of Christ Chapel at the back of the camp. A large group filled the small chapel with five religious leaders conducting the service – two Catholic, two Protestant and one Greek Orthodox. The sermon's message recalled the suffering in the concentration camp and emphasized “resilience” – how a human could survive the pain, deprivation and hopelessness but still remain a person.

The Central Commemorative Ceremony began at 11:30



under a large white canopy set-up on the camp's former *Appellplatz* (assembly area). Here I met many whom I had met before. I appreciated that the smaller 81st anniversary

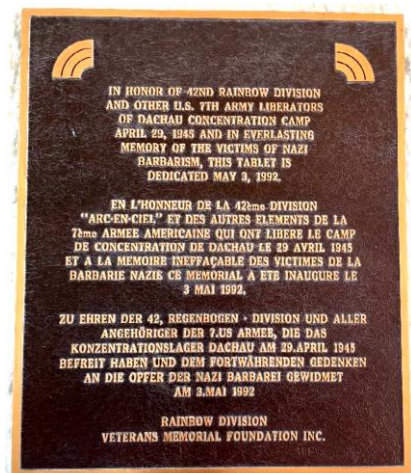
meant that it was less hectic and there were plenty of seats – even for those who happened to be visiting the camp on this day.

The speakers during the ceremony concentrated on the past – the victims, survivors and the liberators – as well as on the meaning for the future. Christoph Thonfeld, from the camp memorial site spoke about “witness” to the atrocities. He said that witness cannot be inherited, each new generation must learn again what has happened. The camp as a memorial center has the mission to continue these lessons.

Karl Freller, a member of the Bavarian state parliament and director of the Bavarian Memorial Foundation brought an “official message” from the Bavarian government. He noted that survivors “are becoming quieter every year, thus, the place must speak louder.” We can't just remember what happened. That is not enough, we must prevent it from happening again.

Each year as the people age, fewer liberators and survivors of the camp can come to the ceremonies. I don't believe there were any US Army soldiers/liberators present, although a number of family members (I was one) attended. This year, only six survivors were there – two were babies born in the camp's system.

The ceremony ended with a role call of the survivors who passed away during the last year followed by the laying of the memorial wreaths. An official from the US Consulate in Munich presented the US wreath. Directly following him, Ludwig Stöckl (the RDVF's "man in Munich," his wife, Evelin and LTC Zack Fike, US Army laid the RDVF's memorial wreath.



Each year, this weekend in Dachau brings together a different group of people – although a core remains – and gives them a chance to remember the victims of the first Nazi concentration camp as well as the soldiers from the US Army who put an end to it. Walking out of the camp, one can't help but see the three memorial plaques placed for the liberators: the 45th ID, the 20th Armored Division and, most importantly, the 42nd Rainbow Division. The World War II portion of Dachau's history is horrific,

but this weekend helps to keep the memory alive to prevent it from happening again.

All photos are by Bob Munson

RDVF VISIT TO OKLAHOMA

Written by: Major General (Retired) John Andonie

For those of you familiar with the song, "Oklahoma" from Rodgers and Hammerstein...
"Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain..."

And not just the wind, but the Rainbow Division as well.

LTC (Retired) Rob Giordano and I traveled to Oklahoma from 10-12 June on behalf of the RDVF to visit sites and monuments important to the history of the Rainbow Division. We also attended the opening of the new Oklahoma National Guard Museum.

We started the trip by travelling to Camp Gruber, the site where the 42d Infantry Division mobilized for World War II. We were greeted by the full-time staff who showed us a small museum at the entrance of the Camp's headquarters that was filled with 42d ID artifacts. After a brief tour of the museum, he proceeded to tell us about the history of Camp Gruber, which started as an Active Army base that was eventually transferred to the Oklahoma National Guard in 1967. The base was named after Brigadier General Edmund L. Gruber, a decorated Artillery officer who composed the song, "The Caissons Go Rolling

Along", the source of the Army's official song, "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

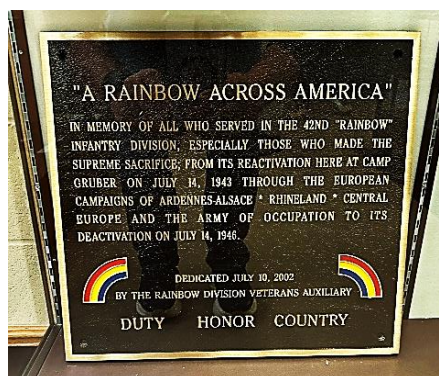
After the briefing, we toured the parade grounds where the 42d ID assembled prior to its deployment in World War II. We also visited the Known Distance Range, where 42d ID Soldiers conducted live-fire training prior to their deployment. Finally, we visited the lodge which was the Officer's Club for Camp Gruber. The building is still intact and is the oldest structure on Camp Gruber. The Oklahoma National Guard has plans to restore the lodge in the future.



Following Camp Gruber, Rob and I travelled to Muskogee where we found an amphitheater built by World War II Veterans from the Rainbow Division. The amphitheater, located in Honor Heights Park, is a memorial to the

division and faces Camp Gruber (approximately 15 miles away). The amphitheater is in good structural condition, but it needs a power wash and repainting. The RDVF intends to work with the Town of Muskogee to research opportunities to repair the amphitheater.

Finally, Rob and I attended the opening of the Oklahoma National Guard Museum. It is a beautiful, modern 40,000 square foot museum built right next to the headquarters of the Oklahoma National Guard. The 42d ID and 45th ID (OKNG) share a history of working together during World War II. If you are visiting Oklahoma City, we highly recommend a visit to the museum.



General MacArthur once said, "The 42nd Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other." Our visit to Oklahoma certainly proves MacArthur's quote. Much of the Division's history is tied to Camp Gruber and Oklahoma. It certainly deserves the attention of the RDVF.



RAINBOWS ACROSS AUSTRIA

In his letter to the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (RDVF) in May 2026, Dr. Robert Obermair writes:

"Dear Sir or Madam,
I am a researcher at the history department of the University of Salzburg and am currently doing research on rainbows that have been painted on walls in occupied Austria by members of the Rainbow Division. So far, I have discovered four examples that

are still visible today, but I also found information that there might have been many more in the past. So I was wondering, if you had any old photographs in your archive that show rainbows that had been painted by members of the Rainbow Division in Austria in the aftermath of WWII or other sources dealing with that topic?

Thank you so much for your help.

Kind regards from Salzburg,

Dr. Robert Obermair”

If anyone has family photos or other knowledge of the 42nd Division “Rainbows” painted in Austrian towns, please be in touch with Dr. Obermair.

robert.obermair@plus.ac.at

HATTEN-RITTERSHOFFEN 2026: A Different Kind of Battle - Our Fight UPDATED July 4, 2028

For context, the *Communauté de Communes de l'Outre-Forêt* plans to create a 106 acres industrial park dedicated to deep geothermal energy and lithium extraction. This project would be built at the expense of the southeastern part of the Hatten-Rittershoffen battlefield, directly facing the ESCH casemate. The project has been designated “strategic” by the French government and by the European Commission, in connection with Europe’s energy sovereignty.

The mandated archaeological excavations ended in late May. Given the sensitivity of the matter, we have received no precise information regarding their findings. Scientific studies are expected to last two years, after which a report will be published.

On July 5, the prefectural decree declaring the industrial park’s related works and land acquisitions to be of public interest was published. We have contacted our attorney to determine the next steps.

The Rittershoffen geothermal plant, which is supposed to partially supply the future industrial zone with heat, remains shut down. However, drilling projects continue to multiply.

Recent Events

May was the month of American visits:

Lt. Colonel Giordano (42nd RDVF) honored us with his visit. Together with our members, he discovered the battlefield – how miraculously visible and readable it still is. With Eric, our “historian,” he followed troop movements on the ground. He saw bunkers, sites of fierce and deadly fighting still bearing visible impact marks, and the traces of combat on the walls of houses. Some unforgettable moments:

His meeting with **Albert**, a civilian “survivor” of the Rittershoffen cellars – 14 years old at the time – whose memories remain extraordinarily precise, and with Violette, his sister, who recounted the horror of her evacuation at age 8, escorted by an American soldier along a road strewn with human and



animal bodies. In her eyes, she became once again, that terrified child.

His moment of communion with **Vito Bertoldo**, on the very site of his heroic actions. He laid a Rainbow-colored wreath nearby, at the top of the steps of St. Michael’s Church, in the presence of several residents and the priest. A powerful, shared moment of emotion where the place itself seemed to “radiate.”

His reflection and prayer at the communal grave where **83 Hatten victims** of the battle – mostly women and children – rest.

His discussions with our young municipal officials, helping them understand the importance of preserving the sites of this tragedy and passing on its memory to younger generations so that we “never forget.”

Jim Legette, Lecturer of Economics at the University of Mississippi, is writing a book about the journey in France of his uncle, **Edward P. Kintinger**, Lieutenant in the 125th Armored Engineer Battalion, 14th Armored division. We accompanied him step by step from Kuntzenhausen to Hatten, via Schwabwiller, in search of the bridges his uncle blew up or repaired, and the minefields he laid.

Amelia and Marie, from the University of Central Florida (UCF), are trying to retrace the paths of several soldiers who went missing during the Battle of Alsace, including Clifford Judah, who disappeared in the Hatten bend (near the church).

All these encounters were opportunities to open our doors to our visitors and to share meaningful exchanges, proving the strength



of the bonds that still exist between descendants – bonds of gratitude and mutual respect.

The interview with Edwin

Albrecht, a 101-year-old veteran of the 42nd Rainbow Division who came to the commemorations of the 82nd anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, was an extraordinary surprise and a moment of exception. Thanks to **Sylvain**, one of our supporters and a guide-lecturer in Normandy, we were able to send Edwin a video message, and he responded with remarkable precision to the questions he had prepared. He received the **Légion d’Honneur**, demonstrating our nation’s gratitude toward him. The photo of Edwin, standing beside the grave of his brother-in-law, killed in Normandy shortly after D-Day, symbolizes for us the double sacrifice of your youth for our freedom: great age standing beside eternal youth. What a vision – history made tangible, as if suspended in time.

Media Interest

Media interest in our efforts continues: the historical dimension of land preservation attracts attention and raises questions. Interviews with **EU Radio** (intended for members of the European Parliament), with the local newspaper and publications thanks to **Erin Faith Allen** in certain American media all give resonance to our crusade – though not yet strong enough to influence decisions.

The companies **Électricité de Strasbourg** and **Lithium de France**, in partnership with **Eramet**, confirmed this week their intention to build a lithium refinery on one-third of the land.

Meanwhile, the President of our *Communauté de Communes* is acting as an ambassador to attract a major energy-consuming company to occupy the rest of the industrial zone.

Our Facebook page has become a genuine information outlet, and we can feel growing public support for our message. This is a real opportunity to make our case heard.

A Shared History

On July 4, 1776, your Congress ratified your Declaration of Independence – with the support and strong involvement of the French government of the time. Your help during both World Wars strengthened the friendship shared by our two peoples.

The Hatten-Rittershoffen battlefield is a contemporary symbol of “**never forget.**”

We therefore continue tirelessly to inform, to share, and to alert.

The publication of the decrees will open the door to another stage: that of legal appeals. That will be another story.

Photo 1 - The RDVF floral tribute in remembrance of Sgt. Vito Bertoldo on the St. Michael's Church steps near the site of the action that earned him the Medal of Honor 9 January 1945; photo taken by Robert Giordano, RDVF Memorials Officer and sent with this comment: “On the 4th we laid flowers at the church to show our deep gratitude and respect, just steps away from the exact location. You may recognize this location for it is the famous church which despite repeated shelling from tanks, it survived. Of a special note, the Catholic Church priest, Muriel and I laid the wreath together.”

Photo 2 - Edwin Albrecht, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 242nd Inf. Regt., 42nd Division paying respect to a fallen Soldier, his wife's brother; screen shot taken from video provided by Muriel Maniere, Hatten Demain Collectif

TWO RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS AT NORMANDY, FR JUNE 1-10, 2026

From Hilbert Margol, B Btry, 392nd F.A., 42nd Division WWII:



This is me and another "RAINBOW" Vet in Normandy, France. Edwin "ED" Albrecht and I at an Abbey for a wonderful dinner, along with 29 other WW2 Vets, Donnie and Katherine Edwards, Founders of the Best Defense Foundation, Virginia

Durr, a Delta Airlines executive, Major sponsors of the trip which occurred from June 1st to June 10th., about 25 college students, and a number of other officials and French dignitaries. This was my 3rd consecutive year in going but ED's first. The Vets enjoyed First Class flights and all invitees did not have to pay for anything. Truly a wonderful experience.

Photo taken by Jerry Margol

42nd INFANTRY ALBANY READINESS CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Gary S. Yaple

The new Division Headquarters is out for bid now. We anticipate an award sometime this fall. The plan will likely include a groundbreaking event in the spring to kick off the construction. The estimated construction period is about 3 years, so a ribbon cutting could be anticipated sometime in early 2030. Here's a website link to the bid info and another link describing the project for all to view. Click on the video to see a fly through of the new headquarters.



<https://ogs.ny.gov/42nd-infantry>
<https://online2.ogs.ny.gov/dnc/contractorConsultant/esb/ESBPlansAvailable.asp?Project=47637>

A “MEMORY OF THE RAINBOW DIVISION” KITZBÜHEL, AUSTRIA

Following a visit to Germany in the spring of 2026, Melanie Remple, past president of the RDVF Millennium Chapter sent photos of this Rainbow Memorial, the Rainbow Stained Glass Window named by MG Harry J. Collins, “Memory of the 42nd Division” in the church at Kitzbühel, Austria.

The history and meaning of this beautiful symbol of reconciliation is described in the book, “In Search of Rainbow Memorials” by Lise Pommois and Charles Fowler and accessible here at <rainbowvets.org> on page 87: <https://rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/42nd-Memorials.pdf>



Securing Our Future, Call to Action

On behalf of Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation Chairman, Major General (Ret.) Harry Miller, we are pleased to announce the establishment of the **42nd Rainbow Division Foundation Fundraising Working Group** to lead a coordinated fundraising campaign that will secure the resources needed to preserve our legacy.

Initial priorities include funding a memorial monument at the new 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and supporting future memorials across the United States and Europe honoring the sacrifices of our World War I and World War II Soldiers. We are seeking dedicated volunteers who are passionate about our mission and willing to work collaboratively to ensure future generations remember the courage, service, and sacrifice of the Rainbow Division.

If you are interested in participating in this working group, please contact Robert Giordano at GIORDANO2mass@gmail.com.

Together, we can ensure the Rainbow Division's legacy endures for generations to come. Join us in honoring our past, strengthening the present, and securing our future.

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC. Contributions Received April 2026 – July 2026

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT And FOUNDATION OPERATING FUNDS

- 50. James H. Weisner, *in memory of his grandfather, James H. Daugherty, Btry C, 149th Field Artillery, 42nd Division WWI*
- 50. Patricia M. D'Aurora, *in memory of Andrew P. Senecal, Anti-Tank Co., 222nd Infantry Regiment, WWII*
- 5. Sally D. Staszewski, *in memory of Chester A. Staszewski, Company H, 242nd Infantry Regiment, WWII*

All contributions are gratefully received and acknowledged. In addition to contributing through our web page, <rainbowvets.org>, donations are also received by check by mailing to RDVF Treasurer:

Peter P. Riley
22 Almond Tree Lane
Warwick, NY 10990-2442