

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 OCTOBER 2015

Greetings to all! We recently concluded our annual Foundation meeting and awards dinner in Newburgh, NY. The board meeting was very productive and our social activities were outstanding! As most of you may know Newburgh is located close to the US Military Academy at West Point. **Steve Wickstrom, an academy grad and Rainbow Veteran, arranged a tour of West Point for many of our attendees.** It was a beautiful day to visit and great way to start off our weekend. That same evening we held a no host social at the Orange County Chopper's restaurant. Lots of familiar faces and some new one's as well. A very good time was had by all. The next morning, 60 RDVF members and family made a trip to NYC to visit the 9/11 museum. The tour was awesome and if you have not gotten down there yet to visit I recommend you put it on your list. We concluded a fun filled weekend with our Annual Awards Dinner at the West Point Officers Club where we awarded 6 Long and Faithful service awards to deserving RDVF members and 13 Scholarship grants totaling \$22,500! Seven of our scholarship winners attended the dinner with their families. It was very gratifying to hand the grants directly to these outstanding young men and women. **Our scholarship program has really become our signature program.** Many thanks go out to our board and of course Scholarship Chairman Mike Kelly for their thoughtfulness in shaping this program. Included in this issue are many pictures and articles about the weekend. Please keep checking in on line at rainbowvets.org and make sure your account is up to date!! **God Bless to all. Rainbow, Never Forget! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman**



RDVF MEMBERS VISIT 9/11 MUSEUM



Freedom Tower and footprint of one of the World Trade Center twin towers lost on 9/11



All photos on this page, including the Rainbow Group at Trophy Point, USMA West Point, NY are by Paul Fanning, RDVF Memorials Officer

Sixty members of the RDVF along with spouses and children attending the annual reunion participated in a day trip to NYC and toured the 9/11 Memorial Park and Museum. The tour provided for 5 hours of museum time giving all more than enough time to see the museum exhibits and walk through the memorial park in lower Manhattan where the former twin towers of the World Trade Center once stood. The museum tells many stories and displays some of the underground infrastructure that supported the Twin Towers. The trip had extra special meaning for many of the RDVF members that served in NYC during the events of 9/11. The Division was responsible for all military operations in NYC for over 4 months and many 42nd Division soldiers made a major contribution during response and recovery operations in the aftermath of that fateful day.

RAINBOW REVEILLE

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FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

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**DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS (\$25./annually;
\$50.LIFE for WWII veterans; \$200.LIFE for all others)**

may be sent directly to National Secretary,

Melanie K. Remple, address above

**RDVA Chaplain's Prayer first published in the November 1994 REVEILLE
Rev. Norman Forde, Co. I, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division WWII**

Almighty God, by whose grace thy people gain courage through looking to the heroes of faith: We lift our hearts in gratitude to thee for all who have lived valiantly and died bravely that there may be truth, liberty, and righteousness in our land. Help us to prize highly, and to guard carefully, the gifts which their loyalty and devotion have bestowed upon us. Grant us the joy of a living and vigorous faith, that we may be true as they were true, loyal as they were loyal, and serve thee and our country selflessly all the days of our lives, and at last receive the victor's crown. **Amen.**

Photo of Freedom Tower by Paul Fanning, RDVF Memorials Officer



THE PRICE OF WAR

**Russel C. Fielding, Anti-Tank Company, 222nd Infantry Regiment,
42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division WWII**

A few years ago the County of Oneida and some generous citizens made it possible to take WWII veterans to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. I had the good fortune to be on one of those trips. I wanted especially to go with other veterans and share memories with them. My seat mate was a Merchant Mariner who made twelve trips across the Atlantic. When I visited the Marines' Iwo Jima Memorial, it was with two of our men who had fought there.

What made the trip most unusual occurred during our first stop for lunch. When we entered the restaurant we found all the servers and help lined up in two rows. We walked between them to get to our tables as they clapped and said "Thank you" over and over again. It was very moving.

The same thing happened at the Memorial. Our two buses parked a short distance away. We formed in what the military calls a column of twos with wheel chairs first, then those with walkers and canes followed by the rest of us. The wheel chairs led as we walked to the Monument. Again we were welcomed by the visitors who had come to see the Memorial. Their "Thank you's" and smiles and cheers brought tears to many of the faces in our group.

It is sobering to view the Memorial with its 4,048 stars each representing 100 who died with "Here we mark the price of freedom" on the wall. It is even more sobering if you have been part of the effort and lost a comrade or friend or relative. You can personalize your remembrance somewhat by concentrating on just one star and in your mind dedicating that star to the one that did not live to return home.

The appreciation shown to us on our tour by strangers probably had much to do with the label of *The Greatest Generation*. Tom Brokaw originated the term in his book writing the Greatest Generation "fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the right thing to do." It is a wonderful tribute, and the entire country, civilian and military, men and women, had remarkable achievements in just four short years. Starting with very little they made thousands of airplanes, thousands of tanks, thousands of trucks and jeeps and all the material to fight a two-front war and win against very formidable German and Japanese armies.

There have been many wars and conflicts since WWII. It is unfair to assume we were the "Greatest Generation" of soldiers. Were we better than the outnumbered marines and GIs that defeated the Chinese in the bitter cold of the Chosin Reservoir in Korea? I do not think so. Were we better than those fighting the difficult jungle warfare in Vietnam? Not only did they face death, they came home not to "thank you's", but rather to derision from some of their fellow citizens holding nasty signs and shouting foul-mouthed epitaphs. We were not better than they.

Today we have troops in Iraq and Afghanistan facing a war none have seen before. Were we better than those who can't tell the enemy from their friends by the uniforms they wear? Where a woman dressed from head to toe to hide her body might also be hiding an explosive belt, and where the natives smile during the day and at night plant land mines and IEDs to greet your patrol the next day? We should drop the "Greatest Generation" as it applies to our WWII military and let our military in all wars be recognized as the great soldiers they are.

As we pause this day to memorialize those who died, along with those who served and are serving now, we should also remember how difficult and dangerous the missions are that these men and women are asked to do. As a ten in a doctor's office indicates how badly the pain, tens can be applied to certain military jobs to indicate the most dangerous. A rifle platoon, a heavy weapons platoon, a bomber crew, a Forward Observer for artillery, the helicopter pilot going out to pick up a wounded soldier, an invasion like Normandy or Iwo and many, many more are tens.

The result has been described as shell shock, battle fatigue and now that we are more sophisticated we have syndromes. Repetition brings it on. To the rifleman there are endless fields to cross, endless hills to climb, villages and cities to take. Each time the word is to go forward you know you may not make it.

Or the bomber crew that is told they are going to Munich – again. They have been there before so they know what to expect. German fighters on the way trying to take them out, and when they approach Munich they will see the puffs that fill that sky knowing it is not a Fourth of July celebration and that not all of the squadron will return. But they screw up their courage, crank up the engines and go again.

So we remember the men, and now women, who are charged with the duty of protecting our country. The soldier who does not return pays the ultimate, maximum price, but he leaves a family behind. Deserving of our empathy and gratitude are the mother and father who now have an empty place at the table, an empty place that will never again be filled, or the wife now alone and children with no father. Our hearts belong with them and we also remember them this day. They pay a terrible price.

War is an accumulation of individual tragedies, an untold number of them. If we could take each individual tragedy, the loss of a child's father, a husband, a son, and the innumerable others brought on by our wars, and remember each of them with a tiny memorial, say the size of a brick, we could then place them in a pile, one on top of the other until all are gone. It will be a huge pile, and if we then climb to the top I suspect we will be looking down on Mount Everest. War is an indictment of all mankind. We fight wars for territory, for pride, for resources, for land and special kinds of Gods. A terrible, terrible waste.

In 2000, just before Memorial Day, I had an email from our seventh grade grandson. *Dear Grandpa, I'm doing an oral report on a soldier's life on the battlefield in WWII. Would you please answer the following questions in complete sentences and then send them back to me. There were twenty questions. #10. Did most men want to do battle? #11. Did most men not want to do battle? #15. Were you scared when you went to war? And #14. Why did you want to be a soldier?*

A few days later, I got another Email. *Grandpa, I need it tomorrow. My response, five pages, single spaced, answered in complete sentences, went out at two AM. My answer to #14. Why did you want to be a soldier? Why? For love – for love of family, love of country and love of freedom. Our country and our way of life was threatened. I wanted to be part of the effort to protect and save the United States and the hope it offered for the future.*

At the end for the question about coming home I wrote: *It is fitting that I am writing this on Memorial Day. Our Division was in combat for only about 140 days. We had over 4,000 casualties. Those of us who came back consider ourselves to be lucky. You are citizens of the greatest country in the world. The freedom and opportunity we have is unmatched anywhere else. You and your classmates may be too young to understand that now. I hope you do someday. Incidentally, he received an A on his report.*

In our Writers Club we once had an assignment to write about either our worst or best day. I do not like worst days so I wrote of my best. It is also the answer to our Grandson's 20th and last question. ***What was it like to go home after the war?***

Anxiety picked up as we grew closer to New York. The ocean was graciously willing to be very supportive as we approached the end of our voyage. No tempestuous sea to show us her power. The last day was cloudy, but very calm as we approached our destination. The swell was so mild I could scarcely detect it. The water was practically flat and appeared glassy. It was more like a calm little lake.

We glided into port, and there was Liberty on her grand pedestal with her torch held high. We were all on deck of the SS Alhambra Victory to see the symbol that stands for so much that we admire and hold dear. I looked and gave her the biggest smile I could muster. She smiled back I was home – my best day!

My very best day!

Wherever we gather today, we express our sincere gratitude to all who have served us so well and are still doing so now. We remember their service and give those who lost so much when their loved ones did not return, a very special place in our hearts. Thank you and God Bless You All.

<http://nationalveteransday.org/events-schedule>

Please visit this web page for schedule of events planned for 2015 National Veterans Day Celebration at Birmingham, Alabama November 10 – 11, 2015.

In Honor and Celebration of National Veterans Day November 11, 2015, in recognition of all American Soldiers, past and present, who have served and are serving our country, we thank you all with deepest gratitude and every day for your service in the cause of freedom, liberty, justice and peace.

We mark the passing this month of our last known surviving Rainbow Division WWI widow, Mrs. John W. (EMMA) McGuire, whose husband served our country as a member of Company I, 167th Regiment (4th Alabama). Emma, age 99, was a long time and loved member of the RDVA National Auxiliary.

Photo of John and Emma is provided by her daughter, Onie Wallace and was taken in 1971 at Daytona Beach while Onie's husband, Bob, was going to Fixed Wing at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS GATHER TO COMMEMORATE MILESTONES

By Col. Richard Goldenberg

Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation Chairman, Joseph Taluto, a retired New York Army National Guard major general and commander of the 42nd Infantry Division during its service in Iraq, presents an RDVF scholarship of one thousand dollars to Andrea Gagnon at the annual Rainbow Division veterans reunion at West Point, N.Y., Aug. 15, 2015. The veterans foundation presented some 13 scholarships this year, coordinated by retired Army National Guard Lt. Col. Michael Kelly, at podium. (Photo by retired Lt. Col. Paul Fanning.)



WEST POINT, N.Y. - Veterans and descendants of the Army's historic 42nd Infantry Division commemorated their 96th annual reunion here Aug. 15 with tributes to Soldiers past and present and to award education scholarships to Rainbow Soldier legacies.

The 2015 annual reunion for the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation recognized a number of milestones, including the current centennial of the battles of World War I that led to the creation of the "Rainbow Division," as the 42nd Infantry is known, to the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II to the 10th anniversary of the division headquarters combat service in Iraq in 2005.

"We gather again to remember the past service of our World War veterans who created the 42nd Infantry Division and established its legacy in the Army," said Foundation Chairman and former division commander, retired Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto. "At the same time, we welcome the modern-era veterans who wore the Rainbow patch in peace and in war, at ground zero in New York City and in the sands of Iraq."

"We stand at a transition where our newest veterans now carry forward that tremendous history and legacy of the Rainbow Division," he said.

The 42nd Infantry Division was created in 1917 when National Guard units from 26 states came together at Garden City, New York, to form a division and deploy quickly to France during World War I.

The division was given its nickname by then-Col. Douglas MacArthur, who conceived of the idea. The 42nd Division, coming from a number of different states would stretch across the country "like a Rainbow."

The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation traces its roots to the

first veterans reunion of the 42nd Division, back to 1919, when MacArthur, the former division chief of staff, brigade commander and division commander from World War I, was elected first and enduring association chairman.

Reunions have been held annually in the summertime to commemorate the division's first major battle in Champagne, France, in July 1918 while serving under General Henri Gouraud and the French 4th Army.

The summer gathering also recalls the division's July 1943 reactivation at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, for service in World War II. The division fought in France and Germany, liberating the concentration camp at Dachau, taking Munich, and ending the war occupying part of Austria.

The division became part of the New York National Guard in 1947.

Taluto said that just as the World War I veterans who created the association passed the reins to the World War II veterans back in the 1970s, current Rainbow veterans of the division will carry the legacy forward for future generations.

"We've had a busy year," Taluto said. "We dedicated two new memorials for the Rainbow Division, one at Fort Drum, New York, and the other at Fort Dix, New Jersey, commemorating the division's mobilization sites for Operation Iraqi Freedom."

"These memorials join the other past sites that mark our World War I and World War II heritage," he said.

The two memorials mark the 2005 mobilization of the division for combat as a division headquarters for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the first National Guard division to do so since the Korean War.

Again the division lived up to its Rainbow nickname: Army elements from the National Guard, Army Reserve, and active component from across 28 states, Puerto Rico and American Samoa came under the command of the division.

The division provided the command and control, logistics and operational base for four maneuver brigades operating in North Central Iraq. The division base received its combat brigades and formed Task Force Liberty, with the addition of the Tennessee Army National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade and the 1st and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

The foundation today welcomes members from former peacetime or wartime service in the 42nd Infantry Division and those family members and descendants looking to honor the service of past Rainbow Soldiers.

Taluto recognized six past officers and volunteers of the foundation for their commitment to the Rainbow Division. Frances Hutnick was one of those family members honored for her long and faithful service to the foundation. She is one of the longest serving board members of the foundation.

"Thank you Frances, for all that you've done and all that you have meant to the Rainbow," Taluto said.

The wartime wife of the division's Steve Hutnick, she met most of the WWII veterans of the Rainbow Division as a teenager in her Austrian village of Stuhfelden in the summer of 1945.

"The Rainbow has been my family all my life," Hutnick said.

Reunion events included a tour of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City, site of the division headquarters service as part of the state response to the attacks at the World Trade Center in 2001.

New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Harry Miller, the current division commander for the 42nd Infantry, provided keynote remarks on the state of the division today at the reunion dinner Aug. 15.

"Last year I stood before you and told you we had a busy year coming up with many events on our plate and I'm proud to say we've done them," Miller said.

Miller described the support of the division headquarters as a higher command cell, or HICON, for both subordinate brigade training events of New Hampshire's 197th Fires Brigade, 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Massachusetts and 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from New York while also supporting battle simulation training exercises for the National Guard's 38th Infantry Division over the winter and 36th Infantry Division in June.

The division also provided a detachment for deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to serve as members of the headquarters element for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The task force headquarters personnel provide administrative support to the joint task force.

The Soldiers deployed in March of this year and are doing a terrific job representing the 42nd Infantry Division, Miller said.

"There are eight National Guard divisions out there in the force," Miller said, "and while I may have a slightly biased opinion, none are as ready and none are as prepared as the 42nd Infantry."

The foundation also highlighted its annual reunion with a presentation of 13 educational scholarships. Presenting the scholarships was committee chairman, retired Lt. Col. Michael Kelly, a Rainbow Division veteran of Iraq.

"Each year on college campuses, students begin again and our foundation is proud to support them in their efforts," Kelly said leading up to the introduction of each student recipient. "This year, we have scholarships totaling some \$22,500."

"We look for an appreciation of the division's historic past in an applicant's essay, to see how the Rainbow Division has made its mark on future generations," Kelly said.

"Whether in your personal, professional or family life, you are part of a team. Never shy away from personal sacrifice for the common good," Kelly said.

Today, the National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division is aligned for training with some 14,000 Soldiers assigned to brigade elements in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Hampshire. With support from the division headquarters and staff, nearly every associated element of the modern 42nd Infantry Division deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait or Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the past decade.

This article is also available to view online at

http://www.army.mil/article/154345/Rainbow_Division_veterans_gather_to_commemorate_milestones/

42ND INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE DIVISION

MG Harry Miller, Commanding General of the 42nd Infantry Division and life member of the RDVF, attended the No Host Social on Friday evening and then the Awards Dinner Saturday evening. MG Miller gave those assembled an update on the Division's current and future activities. He reports that Division readiness remains high and that the Division's training has been well executed. Also joining us for the festivities was New York Adjutant General MG Patrick Murphy.



left to right, NY Adjutant General MG Patrick Murphy, WWII Rainbow Division veterans, PNP James R. "Pete" Pettus (K/232), PNP Harold Melinek (42 QM), Bud Gahs (AntiTank/222), and 42nd Division Commanding General MG Harry Miller [PNP – Past National President of the RDVA] photos- Paul Fanning

2015 Rainbow Scholarship Awards Presented at Annual Awards Dinner to 7 Attending Winners

Mike Kelly, RDVF Scholarship Committee Chairman



Left to Right - RDVF Scholarship Chairman, Mike Kelly, RDVF Chairman, Joe Taluto, Allison Sandefur, Andrea Gagnon, Samantha Thomas, Olivia Costagliola, Steven Durr, Emily Dancisin, and Andrew Praetor at the West Point Officers Club

This year we awarded 13 scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$5,000 totaling \$22,500. The scholarship program is possible with the support of our donors and we thank them sincerely for that help. The process is competitive, evaluating the academic achievement, recommendations, extra curricular activities and each applicant's personal essay. The committee looks for an appreciation of our Division's historic past and understanding of personal sacrifices that our soldiers made to help ensure peace in a world that at times was chaotic and in turmoil. Emily Dancisin in her essay wrote, *I pledge to make this world a more peaceful, respectful, and accepting environment by offering my time to service, leadership, and scholarship.* She recognized her award as a privilege provided by all soldiers including her sponsor BG (Ret.) Paul Genereux, who made life as she knows it, possible.

The Scholarship winners were reminded that *as all who have served our country and those who supported our efforts did what was theirs to do, soon it will be your turn to do what is yours. In your personal and professional lives, take care of each other, and never shy from personal sacrifice to help when called.*

Allison Sandefur was awarded the Melinek/Tisch/Kenny Award for \$1,000. and will attend the SUNY at Oswego and major in education.

Andrea Gagnon was awarded the Ted Johnson Award for \$1,000. She currently is enrolled in the Physicians Assistants program at Western New England College.

Samantha Thomas is awarded the Stillman Sawyer Award for \$1,500. She will attend Lehigh University and major in Environmental Science and Anthropology.

Olivia Costagliola is awarded the Duhaseck Family Award for \$2,000. She plans to attend Rutgers University majoring in biology and spanish in a pre-med track.

Steven Durr is awarded the Dee and Barbara Eberhart Award for \$2,000. He currently attends Cornell University where he is majoring in physics and math.

Emily Dancisin is awarded the Ted Simonson Award for \$3,000. She plans to attend Ocean County College and major in education and Spanish.

Andrew Praetor is awarded the Top Foundation Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000. He will attend Birmingham Southern College and major in engineering.

Morgan Zegers, was awarded the 222nd Infantry Regiment Scholarship of \$2,000.

Julia Disanti, received the Kaiser Family Award of \$1,500.

Benjamin Jordan received the James R. "Pete" Pettus Award of \$1,000.

Marcus Kinsey was awarded the TF Liberty Award of \$1,000.

RDVF Bonus Awards of \$750. each were awarded to –

Christopher Carlson and Michal Warchol.

2015 RDVF Awards for Long and Faithful Service To Six of its Best !

Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman



RDVF Chairman Joe Taluto presents Long and Faithful Service Award to Mrs. Frances Hutnik

Each year the RDVF recognizes those RDVF members that have made a long and lasting contribution to the Rainbow Division Veterans Association and Foundation through the years. This year we recognized these 6 outstanding servants who gave and in some cases still give much of their time in service to our beloved organization.

Father Bob Weiss Life Member who held numerous offices within the RDVA and RDVF, including RDVA President, RDVF Chairman, 222nd Chapter President and member of the Board of Trustees for both the RDVA/RDVF. Father Weiss was an innovator suggesting many new ideas that moved the RDVF forward. He is a highly respected and admired Rainbow WWII veteran.



Rev. Robert Weiss, S.J. with Award;
photo is by Rev. Michael D. French, SJ

Ruby Miller Life Member through the National RDVA Auxiliary where she held office as Treasurer and Secretary for many years. A tireless worker in preserving historic materials in close coordination with former RDVA Archivist Bill Keithan.

Earnie Owen Life Member and son of Arnold Owen, Co. M 242nd Infantry Regiment. As Sarge's Son was the First Millennium Chapter VP July 2000-July 2002 and then became Millennium Chapter President July 2002-July 2004. Upon the urging of RDVF WWII Members became Foundation Chairman 2009-2012. Earnie was a Red Cap (Auxiliary Husband) – 2009-2012. He was the main proponent and supporter of the annual Birmingham Veterans' Parade/Peace on behalf of the RDVA/RDVF

Linda Owen Linda is a Life Member through the RDVA National Auxiliary where she served for many years. She became President of the Auxiliary 2012-2013. Linda along with Earnie were responsible for planning the 2001 Tulsa reunion. Linda has been an admired and respected member and supporter of the RDVA/RDVF for many years.

Suellen McDaniel Suellen is the Daughter of Edwin Rusteberg, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 242nd Infantry Regiment. She is an "original" Life Member. She has held numerous positions within the RDVA/RDVF. She served as The Millennium Chapter's Interim President before serving two years as its 1st President July 2000-2002. She has served as Secretary of the Millennium Chapter from its early beginnings to this day. She has been the Editor of the biannual Millennium Chapter History Newsletter, *Rainbow Trail*, since September 2001 and has served as the *Reveille* editor since 2009.

Frances Hutnik Wife of Steve Hutnik, Company I, 242nd Infantry Regiment, she was a WWII Rainbow war-bride. Frances met many of the 242 WWII Vets in the Austrian village of Stuhfelden in the summer of 1945. She was a young teenager and small so they gave her the nickname of *Shorty*. Frances is a Life Member and one of the longest serving board members of the RDVA/RDVF.

Creative Planning Inc. Creates New Department

Tom Kinley, RDVF Finance Committee Chairman

For the past several years your Board of Directors and investment committee have been working extremely hard to improve the investment return on the funds that have been so generously donated to the foundation.

Early in 2014 your board made the decision to move the foundation's funds to the investment firm, Creative Planning, Inc.. Brett Broyles, a private wealth manager, has handled our account since its inception – and by the way, has done an outstanding job. Recently he contacted us to let us know that his firm has created a new department designed specifically for nonprofit foundations.

After careful consideration the board voted recently to change our investment manager from Brett Broyles to Tiya Lim who is director of Creative Planning's institutional service department. This gives us someone who is an expert in investment management for foundations like ours. Tiya has spent her career working with nonprofit organizations to ensure they have the appropriate investment policies and guidelines so that organizations get the greatest return on their investments.

Not only does this change give us someone who understands nonprofit organizations but it also will save us money because the fees are more appropriate for nonprofit organizations.

We look forward to working with Tiya to make sure the foundation has the resources for the future.

Unexpected History

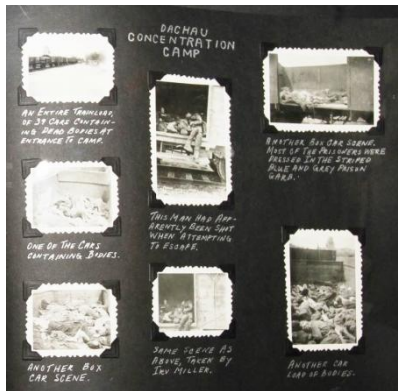
Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian

As recently-departed WWII vet and baseball legend Yogi Berra once said, "You can observe a lot by just watching." Berra might have been talking about the surprising amount of Rainbow Division history that can be found in some unexpected venues.

Take for instance the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum in Ashland, Nebraska. Located about halfway between Omaha and the state capital of Lincoln, this sprawling exhibition hall mainly devotes itself to telling the history of SAC, the US Air Force's Strategic Air Command. Aviation enthusiasts flock there to view such large military aircraft like the B-36 "Peacemaker" and B-17 "Flying Fortress".

Yet tucked away in a side gallery is a moving display that interprets the horrors of Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution": The Holocaust. Part of that sobering exhibit is a panel dedicated to those who liberated the death camps. Photographs made by American soldiers graphically depict the unimaginable evils of such places as Dachau and Wöbbelin.

Many of these images were taken by T/5 Clarence O. Williams, a combat medic assigned to Company A, 122nd Medical Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division. Williams was present when the Dachau Concentration Camp was seized on 29 April 1945, and later donated his World War II photo album to the SAC Museum. These haunting snapshots help visitors understand why America went to war against



Nazi Germany so many years ago.

Along with Clarence Williams' photo collection is a shadow box containing his Rainbow Division patch, Combat Medical

Badge and Bronze Star Medal. Williams' overseas hat, embroidered with the Medical Corps' maroon and white piping, is on display there as well. Visitors can also view a copy of his honorable discharge and military ID card. It is a surprising treat for friends of the 42nd Infantry Division to find this nugget of Rainbow history nestled in America's heartland.

Another unexpected source of 42nd Division heritage can be found a few hours east of the SAC Museum in Des Moines, Iowa. There sits Camp Dodge, an active National Guard training base and home of the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. This impressive facility interprets the Hawkeye State's martial history from territorial days to the Global War on Terror.

Something that few today remember is Iowa's contribution to the Rainbow Division during World War One. The 168th

Infantry Regiment, Iowa National Guard, joined the 42nd Division in 1917. It mobilized at Camp Dodge, and then moved to Camp Mills, NY before shipping overseas to France for combat duty with the Rainbow.

The Gold Star Military Museum has on display several artifacts from the 168th Infantry. Original uniforms and helmets show what First World War soldiers wore in battle, while a barracks exhibit illustrates how trainees lived while at Camp Dodge. Informative signs tell the 168th Infantry Regiment's story as part of the Rainbow Division in World War One.

(Still an active organization within the Iowa Army National Guard, the 168th Infantry Regiment displays on its distinctive unit insignia the three-color Rainbow, in remembrance of that unit's First World War service with the 42nd Division.)

It is well to remember that the 42nd Division, as Douglas MacArthur once said, "stretches over the whole country like a rainbow." Many museums, all across the United States, interpret the Division's history. Together with the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, these institutions continue to preserve the legacy of the 42nd Infantry Division for future generations to study and appreciate.

The Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum is located directly off I-80 in Ashland, NE. Their address is 28210 West Park Highway, Ashland, NE 68003 and can be reached by phone at (402) 944-3100. Check them out on the web at <http://sasmuseum.com> for opening hours and admission cost.

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is on Camp Dodge, near the city of Johnson, Iowa. Its website (<http://www.iowanationalguard.com/History/Museum/Pages/home.aspx>) lists hours of operation and directions. The web page also contains special identification requirements for entering Camp Dodge, a secure military installation. Or call (515)252-4531 for more information.

Photo 1: A World War II shadow box belonging to Dachau Liberator T/5 Clarence O. Williams, is displayed at the SAC Museum in Ashland, NE.

Photo 2: T/5 Clarence O. Williams, a combat medic with Company A, 122nd Medical Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division, took these photos of Dachau Concentration Camp on 29 April 1945.

Photo 3: This colorful steel helmet, once worn by a member of the 168th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division, is on display at the Gold Star Iowa Military Museum in Camp Dodge, IA.

Photo 4: Camp Dodge, near Des Moines, served as Iowa's main mobilization training base during World War One. Thousands of soldiers left here in 1917 to serve with the 168th Infantry Regiment, a part of the Rainbow Division.

Photo 5: The Gold Star Iowa Military Museum at Camp Dodge interprets World War One camp life in this barracks exhibit.

All photos/captions by Patrick Chaisson



The Wrong Place at the Wrong Time WWII POW Account

by Rainbow Division Veteran, Conrad "Gary" Gaarenstroom,
Company F, 2nd Battalion, 242nd Inf. Regt. 42nd Infantry Division



I have been asked to write about being a prisoner of war. I did not suffer the terror of many who were captured. I was unconscious as the result of tank cannon fire. When I came to, I was looking down the barrel of a German gun – from the wrong side.

My experience started with a walking tour of the Black Forest. The trip, under other circumstances, would have been enchanting. A railroad trip in locked boxcars came next. During

this trip, we were stopped in railroad yards during bombing raids.

We arrived at a Stalag [Stalag III-A], which was not like the movie or the TV series. Our barracks was one long room with a small wood stove that had little or no fuel. The sleeping accommodations were three-deck shelves that extended from one end of the room to the other. Each paired up with another prisoner. One overcoat was placed on the wooden shelf and the other covered the two of you. We had no change of clothes or facilities to launder them. We didn't remove our clothes, except for our shoes. We got to shave only once. Without a mirror, we shaved each other. My bunk mate was from Georgia, so my sideburns were down to the bottom of my ears. His sideburns were cut at the midpoint of his ears or higher.

On our first stop, we saw a French doctor, who told us that we would die of starvation in six months – if we didn't die of something else first – on the food from the Germans. Our diet consisted of a container of watery soup without seasoning – I still cannot stand rutabagas – and one loaf of black bread, hard and partly sawdust, for each 7 or 8 men. We had to divide it ourselves and the divider got last pick. Occasionally we got a little cheese. Food was more dear than gold. Stealing food from a fellow POW was punished by throwing the thief in an open latrine trench. Food theft was rare! We were supposed to receive one Red Cross parcel each week. During my 97 days of captivity, I received one-half of a parcel once and one quarter of a parcel twice. These parcels very likely helped us to survive.

One day, we unloaded Red Cross parcels, and stacked them with all the Red Cross labels showing. After a picture was taken of us and the parcels, the Red Cross representative left, and the parcels were then taken away by the Germans. We all wanted to do KP. You could eat the peelings and possibly snitch a potato, a carrot or some food to take back. When I returned to American control, I had a 22-inch waist.

Later, we were transferred to a work camp in Stendal where we were required to work filling bomb craters in the marshalling yards. Fifty prisoners with shovels surrounded the bomb crater and shoveled until it was filled. With our reduced strength and lack of enthusiasm, the work went slowly. An old German guard, complete with gray handle-bar mustache, couldn't contain his contempt for our work habits. He stopped the group of us and announced that he would show us how we worked. He took a shovel and walked slowly to the dirt piled around the crater. He dug the shovel in slowly. When he drew it back, he carefully emptied half of the load. Then he walked slowly to the crater and dumped the dirt. After starting back, he stopped and looked back at the crater to see if it was filled yet. Then he announced that he would show us how we were supposed to do it. He went to the soil bank and proceeded to heave two full shovels of dirt in the air at the same time. After the demonstration, we proceeded to work in the manner of the first demonstration.

The building we were first housed in, an unused beet processing plant, was bombed out. We were moved to an old building previously used for horse shows. We slept on the dirt floor, which wasn't too hard. The building was unheated but kept the wind out.

Once during a bombing raid we were taken outside and lined up next to the brick wall. We could see the B-17s coming. We saw the smoke trail from the lead plane in the formation, which was the signal for all the planes to drop their bombs. We heard the bombs approaching. The concussion caused the brick wall to shake. After the wall stopped shaking, I continued to shake.

Around April 10, 1945, the guards told us that they were going to march us to an open city. Our leaders instructed us to cooperate as long as we marched toward the sound of the guns (East). The city we were leaving, Stendal, had white flags hanging from the windows. A short distance down the road, the column turned to the west. Every GI had to answer the call of nature. The column began to stretch out and the guards, who were old and no longer enthusiastic, could not control everyone. I, and several others, ran into the woods. We captured a worker on his way home. His lunch case was empty, which disappointed us. We asked him in our few words of German how far it was to his house. He spoke some words that we did not understand and then said, "Ein kilometer." We walked with him a fair distance, returning through Stendal.

We few escapees, without so much as a penknife among us, captured a city of over 100,000 people. Shortly, we noticed some black (SS) uniforms discarded. We no longer felt like conquering heroes, and became concerned for our safety. We met a French slave laborer and, with my high-school French, I found out that the worker's house was one kilometer on the other side of Stendal. We decided to stay with the French slave laborers in their compound. I was greeted with a glass of cognac. It went down and immediately came back up. We stayed in the guard quarters until American troops entered the town. When they arrived, the first news we heard was that President Roosevelt had died. A stop at the troop's mess produced a steak on field bread. It was exquisitely tasty, but that, too, stayed down only a short time.

We were trucked to Hamburg. While there I volunteered to guard German POWs on a work detail. We had to feed them, so I gave them a K-ration for each three men. The K-ration consists of four crackers, four cigarettes, a chocolate bar scored to break in half and a can of some type of meat. Revenge is sweet!

I was flown to LeHavre, where I was hospitalized and then returned to the United States in the sick bay of the ship. I took a hospital train to an Army hospital in Chicago. My parents received the telegram about my safe return just before Mother's Day. They visited me in Chicago.

I did not see nor hear of American prisoners being physically abused, although the Air Force prisoners were abused by the population. On one occasion, we were ordered to stand and watch a Russian prisoner being punished. He was tied to a post and beaten to death.

Being a prisoner with six months to live on the diet you receive (if you don't die of something else first), created a deep religious feeling. My only reading material was a New Testament. I read it.

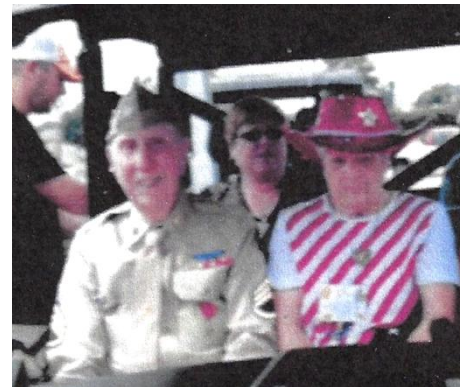
I came away with a deep appreciation for our form of government. Our guards were older men who had not grown up under the total Nazi indoctrination. Alone, a guard would state that Roosevelt, Churchill and Hitler were no good. If another German was within earshot, he would say nothing against Hitler. The German people lived in fear of being taken away and never being heard of again. The children were indoctrinated to the point that they would inform on their own parents. It was a government by terror.

We all should count our blessings that we live in a free country where we can express our opinion of our leaders without fear of retribution.

Ed. This article, printed here with permission from the author, was originally published in the May 2002 issue of "Residents' Reflections", a writing publication by residents of the San Camillo apartments, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Photo right -
James R. "Pete" Pettus,
serving as Grand Marshal
of the August 2015 White
River Water Carnival
Parade in Batesville, AR,
riding with his
wife, Rose.

**Photo clipping is
provided by Pete Pettus.**



A LETTER OF THANKS TO THE RDVF FROM 2015 RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, EMILY DANCISIN



It is with awe and respect that I humbly accepted the Ted Simonson Award on August 15th, 2015. I would like to publicly thank all who were involved in selecting me for this generous scholarship including: Michael Kelly, Joseph Taluto, and especially, Patti Hughes and Ted Simonson's family.

When I received the news that I was selected for this award, I was, of course, beyond thrilled with the exciting news. When I attended the RDVF Awards Dinner, I was even more appreciative and full of gratitude.

The whole event far surpassed all I could have expected it to be. The venue: The Officer's Club at West Point. The atmosphere: An expansive room overlooking the Hudson River which was impressively decorated. The entertainment: A band whose music played exquisitely throughout the evening. The highly esteemed guests: Distinguished military hosts and guests rich in history including my uncle, Paul Genereux.

To say I was impressed is an understatement. I am humbled and truly thankful for the evening and the generosity of the donor, Ted Simonson, and his family including Patti Hughes. Once again, I would like to thank all those who made that night and that award possible. With Sincerest Thanks, ~Emily Dancisin

Photo of Emily receiving her award from RDVF Chairman, Joe Taluto is by Paul Fanning

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAINBOW REUNION OCTOBER 16-18, 2015 *Seattle, WA*

TownePlace Suites Marriott/SeattleSouthcenter



Photo left -Rainbow veterans (left to right) are:

Art Klein, Wilbur Miller, Dee Eberhart, Bob Martinson, and Frank Burns. **Photo right** – Reunion attendees gathered at the Saturday night banquet, seated left to right - Ruby Miller, Wilbur Miller, Kaitlin Nowlin, Art Klein, Frank Burns, Dorothy Burns, Fern Martinson, Bob Martinson, Dee Eberhart, Barbara Eberhart.

Photos by John LaVassar

Kaitlin Nowlin, a welcome guest and speaker at the banquet, is Development Associate at the *Holocaust Center for Humanity* in Seattle. She spoke to the gathering about this organization and the new Holocaust Museum that opened in Seattle October 17, 2015. It is the first Holocaust Museum in the Pacific Northwest. For more information you may visit their website here - <http://www.holocaustcenterseattle.org/>

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION Contributions 11 July – 15 October 2015

Roberta Comerford, 40. ; Herbert Butt, 500.; Lonnie Hamilton, 200.; David W. Wycoff, 25.; Sharon Sheridan/Charles Podhaizer, 25.
If you would like to make a contribution by US Mail, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, Check payable to RDVF and mailed to
RDVF TREASURER PETER P. RILEY 22 Almond Tree Lane, Warwick, NY 10990 – 2442

We may also support Rainbow online at <rainbowvets.org>. All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged.

WWII RAINBOW VETERANS MEMORIAL FILE

BOWERS, George N. JR. 242nd Infantry
BROXON, Thomas K., C/242 Infantry
ESSIG, Raymond, C. G/232 Infantry
GENNA, Joseph J. A/T Co./232 Infantry
GRISWOLD, Scott W., HQ/222 Infantry
MABRY, D.S. "Shelly" L/242 Infantry
MAZURKIEWICZ, Albert J. Med Det/232

DEATHS REPORTED SINCE JULY 2015 REVEILLE

NORWOOD, James E. Sr. 42 DIV HQ
PARRY, John P. "Jack" I/242 Infantry
RAMEY, William D. Jr. 42Div Band
ROBERTS, Kenneth Bernard B/232 Infantry
SCHULTHEIS, Grant T. L/242 Infantry
URBAN, John P. HQ/232 Infantry