



## CROIX ROUGE FARM 26 July 2020 Commemoration of The Second Battle of the Marne



"The Croix Rouge Farm (Red Cross Farm), rectangular and about a square kilometer in area, all cleared lay to the north of the center of the forest. In the middle of the farm, alongside a road leading north to the town of Fère-en-Tardenois, was a building of masonry which presented a fortress-like appearance. The farm and the woods surrounding it were held by the enemy, and from them came a violent machine gun fire, spraying the woods in all directions." (Alabama's Own in France by William Amerine 1919)



All current photograph presentations are by French photographer, Beatrice Dahm; the original Croix Rouge farmhouse is from the webpages of the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation, Inc. [croixrougefarm.org](http://croixrougefarm.org)

# 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

**Chairman's Message** - We hope all are well and pray the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us. As previously reported, our annual meeting and awards dinner were cancelled due to travel and quarantine restrictions in New York. However, we were able to have a virtual annual meeting to accomplish the most pressing Foundation business. Not as effective as a live meeting but it accomplished our purpose.

One key order of business was the approval of the 2020 scholarship order of merit. This year we awarded twenty-three scholarships totaling \$28,000. The pool of applicants was highly qualified and competitive. We look forward to continuing this level of participation for the future.

Our WWII Rainbow Trail Tour is scheduled for July 6-17, 2021. We anticipate travel restrictions will be relaxed and tourist venues open for the trip. There are still several seats available. Anyone interested should contact the RDVF Historian, MAJ (Ret) Pat Chaisson.

Lastly, the 42d Division is nearing the end of their deployment to the Middle East for Operation Spartan Shield. They should return in the November-December timeframe. We look forward to welcoming home all Rainbow soldiers. **Rainbow! Never Forget Paul Genereux, RDVF Chairman**



**Photo One** Dr. Monique Brouillet Seefried, U.S. WWI Centennial Commissioner and Mayor of Fère-en-Tardenois, Jean-Paul Roseleux.

**Photo Two** Re-enactors and members of the association, 14 – 18 whose goal is, "to promote the memory of the men who fought in the Great War and the heroism of the men who took part in the conflict, regardless of nationality and color." Their motto is "Never Forget - Always Remember."

**Photo Three** Participants march past part of the original farm wall.

**Photo Four** Original photo of La Croix Rouge farmhouse viewed on the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial webpages, <http://croixrougefarm.org/>

**Photo Above** - The Star-Spangled Banner is being played after the raising of the flag by Bert Caloud, ABMC Oise-Aisne superintendent. In attendance are representatives of the French military, veterans and flag bearers. Standing in the first row, to the right of WWI Centennial Commissioner Dr. Monique Seefried with her hand on her heart are Mayor Didier Fernandez (Seringes-et-Nesles), Senator Pascale Grunty, Senator Yves Daudigny, Mayor Jean-Paul Roseleux (Fère-en-Tardenois) and Senator Antoine Lefèvre. They all wear a tricolor sash across their chests, red white and blue for the senators and blue, white and red for the mayors. **Caption by Dr. Seefried**



## RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Kelly Fancher, contact info above

With copy to REVEILLE editor, Suellen McDaniel

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**(\$25./annually;\$50.LIFE for WWII veterans;**

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RDVF Treasurer, Peter P. Riley

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*From The President's Message by RDVA President George L. Irwin,  
168th Ambulance Company, 42nd Division WWI  
printed in The Rainbow Reveille October 1968  
"WAKE UP, AMERICA!"*



...Let us all do the very best we can for Rainbow, it is only a small part of America and what is expected of us, for in Rainbow our deep respect for our history and our colors and our comrades is a good reminder to all who witness it as parents and grandparents. We can let our children see an unselfish pride in the good that duty, honor and country represent...."



## HONORING RAINBOW SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR ONE

In a ceremony held on October 11th, 2020, two now-deceased Rainbow Division soldiers were honored with award of the Purple Heart Medal and World War I Victory Medal - decorations for various reasons neither man lived to receive. Local dignitaries and family members gathered at the Coats, NC, Museum to recognize PVT Almon S. Byrd (Co. E 168th Inf. Rgt.)

and PFC Emet Bingham (Co. E 165th Inf. Rgt.) for their service and sacrifice during the First World War.

Members of the Veterans Legacy Foundation, a non-profit group that seeks to present deserving service members with lost or unprocessed military awards, helped organize the event. **Photos**

**courtesy Cathie Jarvis.**



**Photo above:** The daughter of Pvt Almon S. Byrd, Marjorie Byrd McDuffie; he served in 42nd Division, 168th Infantry, Company E.

**Photo right:** Left to right, Ms. Lauren Soyars, girlfriend of Craig Jarvis; Mr. Rex Jarvis; Mrs. Cathie Jarvis (great-grand-niece of Emet Bingham); Craig Jarvis, great-grand-nephew of Emet Bingham.





## 2020 RDVF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Gary S. Yaple RDVF Scholarship Board Chairman

Greetings all,

We had another successful year. In the previous 6 years, the Scholarship Committee reviewed an average 16 applicant packets. This year was significantly higher with 23 very strong applicants and I'm happy to say that the RDVF Board of Directors approved the award of \$28,000 in scholarships. Not only did we see an increase in the number of applications but we also saw an increase in the quality of these impressive submissions. Their average GPA was 3.71 with an average ACT of 26 and SAT score of 1160. Gen. MacArthur would have been proud as this year's applicants stretched from across the world, hailing from all parts of our nation as well as overseas. This posed some challenges to the committee membership, but thanks to the diversity and talent of the team we were able to translate documentation and apply their results to the stringent standards we utilize when determining these awards.

This year's Scholarship Review Board was held utilizing the support of virtual technologies connecting the dedicated and talented membership of Jude Mulvey, 42<sup>nd</sup> ID Staff Judge Advocate (currently deployed OCONUS); Patrick Chaisson, Retired AGR Cavalry Officer; Kelly Fancher, Family Programs Deputy Director; Tammy Hicks, Public High School Master Teacher. In support of this effort was Chris Ciccone, Board Recorder, Public High School Teacher; John Andonie, Director of the Joint Staff at DMNA, Board Alternate/ Observer; and yours truly as the RDVF Scholarship Committee Chairman.

After careful scrutiny and consideration, the Scholarship Committee recommended and the RDVF Board of Directors approved the following awards:

MacArthur Award (\$5,000.) **Austin Margol**  
Stillman F. Sawyer Award (\$3,000.) **John Wallace**  
Ted Simonson Award (\$2,000.) **Hannah Lilly**  
The News Corp-Robert T. Kennedy Award (\$2,000.)

### Noah Cox

Lon and Colleen Peck Award (\$1,500.) **Nathaniel Schin**  
Edward and Lillian Kaiser Award (\$1,500.) **Adrianna Dancsin**  
Walter and Virginia Duhacsek Award (\$1,500.) **Aidan Altamirano**  
222d Infantry Regiment Award (\$1,500.) **Brian Myers**  
242d Infantry Regiment Award (\$1,000.) **Riley Lewis**  
Mayland Crosson Award (\$1,000.) **Matthew Lettko**  
Ted Johnson Award (\$1,000.) **Gabriella Fisher**  
42d Infantry Division Association Award (\$1,000)  
**Gabriella Pugliese**

RDVF Award (\$1,000) **Hudson Flynn**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Hyrum Balog**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Kaeleigh Cronin**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Daniel Blank**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Dennis O'Brien**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Colin McGinn**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Ashley Murtagh**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Alexandra Mastin**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Jessica Zaccarelli**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Clark Reilly**  
RDVF Award (\$500) **Kayla Turner**

I've included a few thank you notes from the students and family members who were so grateful for our support. We should all be very proud of these fine Americans; direct descendants of our Rainbow Division's legacy and heritage. We send congratulations to them all and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

We should also be very proud of this incredible Scholarship Program. It continues to support the mission of our

organization in a very tangible and meaningful manner. In an effort to build on this success, I am proud to say that the RDVF Board of Directors approved up to \$30,000 annually in Scholarship Awards. This very generous level of commitment will provide the Scholarship Committee with a predetermined benchmark and allow them the latitude needed to make timely Scholarship Award recommendations that will best support the needs of the students and RDVF alike. I thank the Board of Directors for this very thoughtful support.

Finally, I leave you with this last thought.... As today's Rainbow Division starts their journey home from their deployment overseas, I wish them a safe and speedy return and let's get some of those Soldiers to apply for the scholarships next year! Remember that even in these challenging times in our country, we still live in the greatest nation on the face of this planet. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Rainbow Division Soldiers who continue to fight for freedom and answer the call to service!

Rainbow! Never Forget! Gary

Dear Rainbow Division Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for supporting my education by selecting me for a scholarship that honors so many who served our country well. I am honored and humbled to accept the award in remembrance of my great-grandfather, Bud Archer. Although I was not able to meet him and only know him through listening to his autobiographical recordings from the war and from stories that have been shared, I am sure he is watching over me and is as excited for my future as I am.

This award is received with great gratitude and will go to great use for my education. It has always been a long term goal of mine to attend college in order to gain the skills that will allow me to serve others well in my chosen career. On behalf of both me and my family, no amount of words can express our appreciation for this honor. I greatly appreciate each committee member's time in looking over my submission and selecting me.

Sincerely,

*Noah Cox*

Noah Cox

A message from David Mastin, father of RDVF Scholarship Award Recipient, Alex Mastin  
Hello Mr. Yaple,

I was so excited to receive the [message about my son receiving the scholarship.] My grandfather Harold Edwin Kelly was a HUGE part of raising me. When we finished a day's work he would take me in the back garage where he had daggers and knives from the war and tell me stories. I would give anything to hear him tell them to me one more time. What these young men did to change the world is beyond amazing.

This all started when I was talking to my daughter Alex about my grandfather and wanted to make sure I had some of the locations and details correct on the stories so I looked up information. While fact checking my story to her I noticed the scholarship opportunity, so it is really interesting how things work for a reason. With the pandemic and I own a small business this is now 2 kids in college at the same time. I am extremely grateful for the scholarship as every dollar is counting.

Thank you for taking the time to review her application and thank you SO MUCH for the scholarship that was awarded. Again, this was by far the greatest generation and we are extremely grateful to live in this free country for the sacrifices that were made.

I own a small digital marketing firm. [Netclicks.io](http://Netclicks.io). If you need any assistance with your online presence or if I can help in anyway please send me an email.

Thank you again  
God Bless  
David Mastin

Dear Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation,  
Thank you so much for the generous scholarship of \$1,500. I'm honored to carry on the legacy of my grandfather's service, & RDVF. I have worked to earn this scholarship over the past school year. My sophomore year will be no different. I will work harder knowing that RDVF believes in my ability as a student & a future professional. Stay safe & take care during the pandemic.  
Best regards,  
Brian  
- Thurs, 8/27/2020



# The M3 “Grease Gun”

## Served Generations of Rainbow Division Soldiers

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian

Some military gear is perfectly designed, timeless in form and function. For example, the Vietnam-era poncho liner – basically a lightweight nylon-insulated blanket – is as beloved today as when it first entered service 60+ years ago.

Then there are those pieces of G.I. equipment that a.) the government has a lot of and b.) work adequately. The M3 Submachine Gun is one such item, a crudely-fashioned shoulder weapon that armed soldiers of the Rainbow Division in peace and war for well over half a century.



The M3, an all-metal close-combat firearm, was designed for mass production during World War II. Its passing resemblance to a mechanic’s lubrication tool led to the weapon’s most common and enduring nickname: Grease Gun.

Over 600,000 Grease Guns were made for the war, all by a company that normally made automobile headlamps. Constructed almost entirely of pressed or stamped steel, the M3 cost taxpayers a mere \$20.94 per unit (\$313.62 in today’s money). It was meant to replace the legendary Thompson Submachine Gun, or Tommy Gun, which required far too much labor, metal, and time to manufacture.



Weighing 8.2 lbs. unloaded and measuring 29.8 inches with its wire stock extended, the Grease Gun held one 30-round magazine of .45 caliber ammunition. Its rate of fire was a slow but controllable 450

rounds per minute. While a fully-automatic-only weapon, skilled operators could slap the M3’s trigger to squeeze off single shots if necessary.

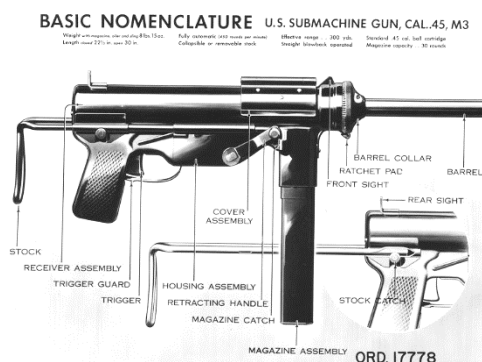


Soldiers assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division first fired a Grease Gun while in training at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, during the summer of 1944. Private Dee Eberhart of 3rd Plt., Co. I, 242nd Inf. Rgt., 42nd Inf. Div., was one of those men. Eberhart said he and his fellow infantrymen “held it [the M3] in mild contempt,” considering the industrial-ugly submachine gun a cheap knock-off of the German MP40 machine pistol (sometimes known as the “Burp Gun” for the sound it made while firing).

Indeed, most “Rainbowmen” (as members of the 42nd Inf. Div. called themselves) preferred their hard-hitting M1 “Garands” or

Browning Automatic Rifles in battle. There were times, however, when the Grease Gun’s short-range firepower came in handy. Each infantry company had a few on hand for such specialized missions as bunker-clearing or urban combat.

After Germany was defeated, 42nd Inf. Div. soldiers stationed in Austria found another use for the M3. Hilbert Margol, Btry. B, 392nd FA, recently described how one day he and three other Rainbowmen went deer hunting with their issue carbines and a Grease Gun. “You know [which one of us] killed a deer,” Margol chuckled. “Our mess sergeant, Sgt. Thomas, had a job cleaning out bullets from the carcass before he cooked same.”



The M3’s folding stock and stubby barrel fit well inside the cramped confines of a tank, which is where most of them went after World War II ended. During the Cold War, this submachine gun equipped many

armored and mechanized units within the Rainbow Division – since 1947 a part of the U.S. Army National Guard.

One of those outfits, Troop A of the 1st Squadron, 101st Cavalry, was in the mid-1980s commanded by Capt. Paul Genereux (now Chairman of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation). He recalled how each of his unit’s nine M48A5 main battle tanks “had M3s...issued one per tank to supplement the dismounted crew’s M1911 pistols.”

Genereux also observed how the Grease Gun remained a bargain despite 40 years of inflation: “I was amazed at the cost in the property book, about \$40.00,” he said of an organizational equipment record that listed the value of every item his cavalry troop was issued.

While Rainbow Division soldiers never took their M3s to battle after WWII, this stubby little submachine gun saw plenty of action with other U.S. forces in Korea, Vietnam, and even during the First Gulf War. The author, who commanded Company B, 1-101 CAV, still had two Grease Guns on his unit’s property book as late as 2001.

With 55 years of service in the 42nd Inf. Div., the M3 Submachine Gun certainly set records for longevity – even if it wasn’t exactly beloved by those who carried it. The “Grease Gun” did its job, though, which in the end is what matters most when one considers military hardware.

**Photo One:** “Light housekeeping in a foxhole with everything available from hand grenades to PX rations.” This WWII-era Rainbowman is armed with a lethal M3 “Grease Gun” and plenty of ammunition in 30-round box magazines.

**Photo Two:** “Their faces grim, Rainbow doughs (Infantrymen) move ahead through the woods along a narrow lane past a mine field.” An M3-equipped soldier is ready for close-range work.

**Photo Three:** “Briefed and loaded with ammunition and grenades, these men tensely wait instructions to join in the assault.” At center, a Rainbow Division G.I. stands cradling his M3 Grease Gun.

**Photo Four:** The M3 relied on spot-welding and low-cost stamped steel for ease of production. It only had 73 parts, most of which are depicted on this poster. Photo Courtesy Springfield Armory National Historical Site, Massachusetts.

All other photos courtesy 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division: A Combat History of World War II by Hugh C. Daly, Baton Rouge: Army and Navy Publishing Company, 1946.



# A VISIT TO DACHAU AND ALLACH

Robert B. Munson

At the end of April 1945, Private Robert M. Munson, Co. G/232<sup>nd</sup> Regiment passed through Dachau as the 42<sup>nd</sup> moved from Fürth to Munich. According to a regimental report (sent to me by the RDVF historian):

*On 30 April [1945] the [232<sup>nd</sup>] regiment reverted to Corps reserve, and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Allach during the afternoon to await orders. Companies E and G were placed on special duty with division guarding the Dachau Concentration Camp and Autobahn bridge, respectively.*

*At 0820 on 2 May, Companies E and G were relieved from special duty with division guarding the Dachau Concentration Camp and Autobahn bridge respectively.*

This is the most I know about what my dad may have done in the area. I grew up knowing my dad had served in the Rainbow and that he “marched across Europe”. He passed away when I was three years old so I never heard any stories from him.

In the 1990s, I came to Germany with the Air Force and visited the Dachau Concentration Camp memorial several times. In 2001 I returned to the area with my new wife. She had a teaching job in the Bavarian International School, and we lived in the small town of Unterschleissheim, only about 5 miles from the somewhat larger town of Dachau. During our four years in Unterschleissheim, Dachau became simply the largest town near us, a good destination for Saturday morning shopping and the Christmas market in December.

I retired from the Air Force, became a government civilian with the US Army, and returned to Germany three years ago. I am taking this opportunity to research my father’s war-time experiences and this led me back to Dachau. I returned to the camp with a work colleague who is interested in the World War II history of the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. This was his first visit to the camp since the 1980s and mine since about 2004. Through this newsletter I learned about the Rainbow’s “man in Munich,” Ludwig Stökl who met us at the camp. Ludwig joined us on the tour and it was a joy to get to know him, even for the short time we were together.

This time I came with some Rainbow background. I knew that the 42<sup>nd</sup> liberated Dachau and, based on the regimental report, my father probably did not directly enter the main camp during the liberation.

The main Dachau camp itself was about the same as I remembered. What still remained in my mind was the sheer size of the complex. I tried to imagine the large population of camp inmates crammed together in now-gone buildings spread across the compound. The Camp museum holds an impressive and exhaustive history of the camp and the Nazi-era system of repression in Germany. This is still one of the best museums I have seen dealing with the Holocaust. I am proud to say that the story of the 42<sup>nd</sup> still lives in this museum and in the memorial plaque on guard tower at the camp’s entry.

After visiting the main camp, we went to what had been the Dachau Subcamp in Allach, about 5 miles to the south. The Allach-Karlsfeld camp operated from 1943 to 1945, housing about 5000 prisoners (many French) who provided labor to build aircraft engines and for construction projects. The conditions here were hardly better than in the main camp, just



fewer prisoners in a small area. Based on the regimental report above, I can assume my dad probably visited this subcamp.

We found the location of the Allach Subcamp without any problem since the Dachau website

(<https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de/en/>)

provides excellent information about the whole camp system. The website led us to a memorial plaque installed on the one remaining, non-descript building (see photos). This building now houses a sports club and the rest of



the camp area has since turned into a housing development of dense rows of apartments, not unlike many across the Munich area.

After visiting the main camp and seeing the history portrayed there, I felt that it was good that Allach had become something more “usual” than a museum. In the 75 years since the end of World War II, it had returned to regular life. In the many years I have lived in Germany, I have seen how the Germans have dealt well with their history of the



Holocaust. As a latter-day representative of the troops who “liberated” Germany from the Nazi dictatorship, I have rarely been met with anything less than kindness in this country.

I plan to continue to travel to see the history of the Rainbow both here in Germany as well as post-war in Austria and to learn what my dad experienced. Unfortunately, I began my research after many who served with my dad have already gone “over the Rainbow.” If anyone, though, has information specifically about Co. G/ 232<sup>nd</sup> Regiment they would like to share, I would be grateful and I would be pleased to return the favor if I could do anything from Germany.

**Photos One & Two:** Single remaining building from Allach Subcamp.

**Photo Three:** Memorial Plaque on building (in both French and German): In memory of the many thousands of prisoners of the Dachau sub-camp Allach-Karlsfeld who worked in armaments production from 19 March 1943 to their liberation on 30 April 1945



## Rainbow Division veteran celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with friends and with honor



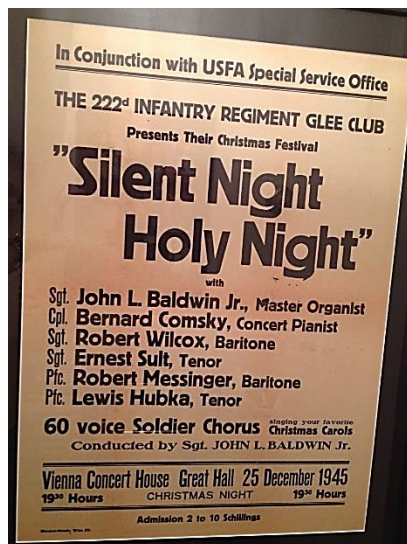
### James A. Derry of Ft. McCoy, FL is honored on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

In a letter received in August 2020, Joseph F. Cahill, Jr. wrote: "This February, Jim, A man who does 20 push-ups and then walks a mile before breakfast every day, celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Prior to his birthday, I made contact with Lt. Alyssa Griffith at 42 DIV HQ in NY. Lt. Griffith arranged to have a plaque made to be presented to Jim at his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party. In addition, she also provided us with a copy of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Presidential Unit Citation (awarded to members of Anti-Tank Company, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment), as well as information of Jim's heroics which led to him being awarded the Bronze Star. One of my other neighbors, Joe Sokolovic, was also a member of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division. At Jim's birthday party Joe and I presented the plaque to Jim and also read the Presidential Unit Citation as well as the account of Jim's Bronze Star."

The action for which Corporal Derry received the BSM occurred on 9 January 1945 during the Battle of Hatten, France. CPL Derry, driver of a quarter-ton truck, made four trips between the two towns of Hatten and Rittershoffen under heavy artillery fire and mortar fire to pick up and deliver daisy chains of mines to his company.

**Photo L-R** Joe Cahill, Jim Derry, Joe Sokolovic; both Joe Cahill and Joe Sokolovic served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 104<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division: SSGT Joseph Sokolovic was Chief of Guns, Battery B, 2F104 and 1LT Joseph Cahill, XO, Battery C 2F104.

## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT 75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Glee Club performance 25 December 1945 – 2020 Submitted by Nan Messinger Lansinger



My father, Pfc. Robert George Messinger (deceased, 2008), originally from Kingston, NY, was a member of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Glee Club (42<sup>nd</sup> Division). The 60-man chorus performed a concert entitled "Silent Night Holy Night" on Christmas night, December 25, 1945, at the Vienna Concert House, Great Hall (Austria). A college music major and a trained baritone vocalist,

Messinger was a soloist that evening along with Pfc. Lewis Hubka, Sgt. Ernest Sult, and Sgt. Robert Wilcox. Cpl. Bernard Comsky was the accompanist and Sgt. John Low Baldwin, Jr. was the Conductor. This Christmas will be the 75th anniversary of that very special concert.



If you have information or connections to men who were part of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Glee Club, please contact Nan at [nlansinger@gmail.com](mailto:nlansinger@gmail.com). She is dedicated to preserving this history. **Photo below** John Low Baldwin Conducting

All photos are contributed by Nan Lansinger



### RESEARCH PROJECT

#### Anti-Tank Company of the 222nd Infantry Regiment

We are seeking any veterans or their family members of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Tank Company who would be willing to share stories and/or photos pertaining to service during World War 2. We are compiling an archive of the individual stories and experiences of the men of the company. Please contact:

**Major Zachariah Fike 315-523-3609**

[Zachariah.l.fike@mail.mil](mailto:Zachariah.l.fike@mail.mil)

38 N. Main St. Suite 112, St. Albans, VT 05478 - 1665



# NY ARMY GUARD SOLDIERS WIN NE BEST WARRIOR 3<sup>RD</sup> STRAIGHT YEAR

*Eric Durr, New York National Guard 19 August 2020*

JERICHO, Vt. - For the third time in three years, two New York Army National Guard Soldiers are the best Guard Soldiers in the northeast.

The two Soldiers won in both the junior enlisted and noncommissioned officer categories of the Army National Guard's Northeast Region Best Warrior Competition. Staff Sgt. Matthew Ortiz and Cpl. Troy Perez each bested seven Soldiers from the New England states and New Jersey during the August 13-16 competition run by the Vermont Army National Guard at Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho.



They will now compete in the nationwide Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition Sept. 13-16 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Ortiz and Perez are members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, based in Manhattan. Ortiz is assigned to the Headquarters Company, while Perez is a member of Alpha Company. They're also both emergency medical technicians in the New York City Fire Department who met while training at the city's Emergency Medical Services Academy. Their experience as EMTs and the bond they share outside the National Guard helped them do better at the Best Warrior events, Perez and Ortiz both said.

"Being an EMT, especially someplace like New York City, where the call volume and the workload is very high, it forces you to deal with extreme stress," Perez said. "Other peoples' lives are in your hands, so you have to be prepared to come to work and be mentally agile and fit for duty."

In 2019, New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Martin Cozens and Cpl. Joseph Ryan, now a sergeant, won the Northeast Region Best Warrior Competition. Cozens is a member of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, while Ryan is assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry. In 2018, Spc. Ilya Titov, who is also now a sergeant, and Sgt. Quentin Davis, both members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, won the regional event.

"It's a pretty big deal over at the unit right now," Ortiz said. "We are following in the footsteps of these guys who came before us. It means a lot to us to make them proud of us," he added.

Their route to the national Best Warrior Competition began when they took first place at the New York State Best Warrior Competition July 24-26 at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill.

The event was postponed from May due to the COVID-19 pandemic and there was a chance it would be canceled, but the Joint Force Headquarters NCOs who run it figured out how to do a pandemic-sensitive contest, said New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski.

"The contestants wore masks during events that were not highly physical," Piwowarski said. "And the staff wore masks, disinfected surface areas, worked to maintain social distancing and thermometers were available."

Four to five days of competition was crammed into 30 hours of activity to lessen exposure to each other and make up for the last-minute scheduling, Piwowarski said. "This year's competition was limited in some ways by COVID-19 protocols. However, there was no limit to the intensity of the competition or the contestants," Piwowarski said.

Ortiz, from Bethpage, New York on Long Island, and Perez, who lives in Yorktown Heights in the Hudson Valley, trained together to get ready for the New York Best Warrior Competition and then to hone their technique for the regional event at Camp Ethan Allen.

"We stayed motivated and pushed each other every day," Perez said.

They would also pick different places to run and train for the ruck march part of the competition.

"We'd take the American flag and run it across the Brooklyn Bridge," said Ortiz. "It helped keep our morale up."

Both men credited Ryan, one of the regional winners in 2019, with helping them prepare for the competition.

Ryan suggested ways to train and prepare and worked with Command Sgt. Maj. Shaun Butcher, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, who once won New York's competition, to get the resources they needed to compete.

The regional competition, like the New York Best Warrior, included a fitness test, combat lane, day and night land navigation courses, an appearance board, Army warrior tasks, a written test, an essay and rifle and pistol course and a 12-mile road march with a full pack.

The surprise event – held between the day and night land navigation courses, was ax throwing.

The event, Ortiz explained, was included as a salute to Vermont's Green Mountain Boys, the state's first militia, which took Fort Ticonderoga from the British in 1775.

A tomahawk, or small ax, was part of their equipment and they were expected to keep it sharp and clean and be able to use it to start a fire or kill an enemy scout, he said. The Soldiers were given a chance to practice and then threw axes at silhouette targets. Surprisingly, both Ortiz and Perez excelled in ax throwing.

"That was fun," Perez said. "I had never thrown an ax in my life." "It turned out Ortiz and I both placed first in the ax throwing," he added.

Now, their emphasis will be on getting ready for the National Army Guard Best Warrior event at Camp Shelby and see if they can replicate their wins there, and go on to the Army-wide Best Warrior.

"Our goal is to find our weak points by looking back at the other competitions and knowing what we did and what we can improve on," Perez said. "We need to look at the minor details now to really perfect our training."

**Ed. Postscript** - in the *Nationwide Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition Sept. 13-16 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi*, SSGT Matthew Ortiz was the Non-commissioned Officer runner-up in the competition. For a description of the event, visit <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2354499/arizona-mississippi-soldiers-are-best-warriors/>

**Photo credit** – SFC Jason Alvarez Vermont National Guard New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Matthew Ortiz, (right) who finished in first place in the noncommissioned officer division at the Army Guard Northeast Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont, receives his award from Vermont Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Nathan Chipman, on August 16, 2020. Ortiz is the third New York Army National Guard NCO to win this award in a row.

## WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST Deaths Reported Since July 2020

<b>ADAMS</b> , Everett F.	A/232 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
<b>BAKER</b> , Verne Ray	H1B/222 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
<b>BEHRENS</b> , Albert P. Jr.	unit unreported
<b>COY</b> , Ralph Raymond	242 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
<b>EDMONSON</b> , Ira	unit unreported
<b>*FAGIOLO</b> , Romeo	H2B/242 Infantry
<b>JOHNSON</b> , A.L. Jr.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn/232 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
<b>KRONE</b> , James H.	42 <sup>nd</sup> Division Band
<b>PEIRCE</b> , Richard H.	C/142 Engineer Combat Bn.
<b>SHANKLIN</b> , John Avan	unit unreported
<b>SHULER</b> , Charles Leonard	A-T/222 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
<b>SOTAK</b> , Joseph P.	Btry A/232 <sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery

**\*RDVA President, 1993-1994**

## CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER Printed in the Rainbow REVEILLE November 1992 Rev. Norman P. Forde

### O Lord our Governor,

bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people of peace among ourselves and an inspiration to other nations of the earth. To the President and to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. To members of Congress, and all who make our laws in states, cities and towns, give courage, wisdom and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people. To judges and officers of the courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served. And finally, teach our people to accept their responsibilities, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society, that we may serve you faithfully in our generation.  
**AMEN.**

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

**RDVF ENDOWMENT** George A. Allen II – 25. *In memory of James A. Dean, 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry*

**RDVF SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT** Patricia M. Weiss – 50. *In memory of Carmine Sacco, H2B/222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry; Mayland Crosson – 200. In memory of Romeo J. Fagiolo, H2B/242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry; Bill and Donna Priebe – 70. In memory of Wilbur Priebe, L/242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry; 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Association c/o Pasquale Alesia – 1000.*

*All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged!*

## VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION 11 NOVEMBER 2020

*A message from Rev. Norman Forde, reprinted from the Rainbow REVEILLE November 2007*

*On June 1, 1954 November 11<sup>th</sup> was designated "Veterans Day." Since 1921 that day had been "Armistice Day," commemorating the peaceful conclusion of World War I. All who fought in World War I were remembered.*

*We sometimes confuse Veterans Day with Memorial Day, which falls in May. Memorial Day honors all who died in war or as a result of war wounds. Veterans Day also honors them, but the day is set aside to honor living veterans who served honorably in wartime or times of peace. The Nation pauses to give them thanks.*

*On Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, may we, veterans of Rainbow in World War II, give special thanks and recognition to the thousands of veterans of the 42<sup>nd</sup> ID Mech, men and women, who have been to Iraq and Afghanistan and other deployments. NORMAN FORDE, Chaplain WWII veteran, 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry "Rainbow" Division*