



**A RAINBOW FAREWELL FOR
Robert L. Skaar, Co. C, 1st Bn,
222nd Inf. Regt. 42nd Infantry
Rainbow Division
Killed in action 03/10/1945
Repatriated 06/07/2024
Laid to rest 10/01/2024
LaCrosse, Wisconsin**



Rainbow is more than the color in the sky – more than the sunlight shining on the rain. It is to us, a symbol of the strength and character of the finest fighting men in America; a symbol of our love of country and comrades, transcending the love of life itself. As God gave the rainbow to man as a sign of eternal promise, so have “Rainbowers” accepted it as

their pledge in turn, that Freedom - Equality – Justice – and Humanity – shall prevail.

For all this many of our comrades, under the tender coverlet of Old Glory, have been carried to the end of the Rainbow. In tribute to their services and sacrifices, these final words are said in farewell,

“Dear Departed Comrade:

It seems but a few short years since we stood shoulder to shoulder under that brilliant hued ARC that stretched from the old province of Lorraine to the tangled forests of the Argonne in WWI and from Strasbourg to Vienna in WWII.

How well we remember the toil, the sweat, the fears, those days when so many of our comrades were called upon to give the supreme sacrifice.

A friendship such as ours would only have been conceived in battle, at a time when our lives depended so much upon one another.

It has only been through the Grace of God that we have been given the privilege of continuing our comradeship these many years. We are proud to have been your friend. God has given us a fellowship that we in our hearts believe has never been equaled.

No words could ever mar, no deeds could end this comradeship of ours, dear friend.

Your mission in following the Rainbow to its glorious end was not to find the proverbial pot of gold, but rather the noble purpose of bringing added glory to the Flag of Our Country. This you have done.

We salute you.

You have now answered the call of the Celestial Bugler. With silent marching feet you have enrolled in that great Spirit Army.

We pray God, that we too may find the way – some day - and assemble with you upon that Eternal Parade Ground.”

Writer Unknown – origin believed to be the Minnesota Rainbow Chapter (RDVA) composed of WWI 42nd Division Veterans, 151st Field Artillery

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 Fellow RDVF Members,

First, let me start by saying that our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by the recent hurricanes. It has been a wild and dangerous season this year and we hope everyone affected is safe and, on a path to recovery from these tragic events.



The 42d Division had some big changes since our last edition, so I'll do my best to bring everyone up to date. The Division has a new commander as MG Joseph Biehler has decided to retire after more than 38 years of service to include three combat tours, to pursue his civilian career.



and MG James on command and his new place in the storied history of the Rainbow Division! Congratulations men!

BG Jack James assumed Command of the Division effective 1 September 2024 and was promoted MG on 18 October 2024. A formal change of Command Ceremony will take place at Fort Indiantown Gap sometime in November 2024. Please join us in congratulating MG Biehler on his well-deserved retirement

In recent news the design and future construction efforts for a brand new 42d Infantry Division Headquarters Armory is in the works. The NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs has initiated a \$10 million design and is in the process of acquiring Heritage Park, 20-acre parcel that was home to the former Albany Yankees that closed in 2002. The new Armory will cost \$130 million to build and will provide a modern, state of the art command and training center for the Division. We'll be sure to keep you posted as we learn more.



I also want to thank Tammy Hicks and the Scholarship committee for executing another great scholarship season. You can see the full list of awardees in this edition. As always, we strive to grow this amazing program and hope to inspire even more applicants in the coming year.

**Photo one – MG Jack James is congratulated by his family during his promotion ceremony at Camp Smith Training Site New York, October 19, 2024; NYNG photo by Staff Sergeant Matthew Gunther
Photo two – Design for 42d Infantry Division Headquarters Armory NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs**

Deadline for JANUARY 2025 issue is 10 JANUARY 2025

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PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL

FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

Patrick Macklin, contact info above

Gifts payable to RDVF (see page 8)

and DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS

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

\$200.LIFE for all others)

And under the "Never Forget" theme, we were happy to learn that U.S. Army Pvt. Robert L. Skaar, 18, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, killed during World War II, was finally accounted for June 7, 2024. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) officially announced that information on September 5th. A wonderful and collaborative effort initiated by Suellen McDaniel and led by the amazing Melanie Remple ensured that Pvt. Skaar's family members received a full understanding of how the Rainbow family looks after our own. Paul Fanning immediately sprang into action and ordered a beautiful spray of flowers, and Melanie, traveled the long distances to personally represent our organization at Pvt Skaar's reinternment ceremony. Melanie was able to present "The Rainbow Farewell" at the ceremony. They all did a wonderful job and helped make this very moving rendering of honors to this fine warrior, an even more meaningful day for his family. Thank you, Suellen, Melanie and Paul. You always represent the RDVF so well. This link will take you to the full story: <https://www.wiproud.com/news/local-news/fallen-soldier-pvt-robert-l-skaar-is-coming-home-to-rest-after-79-years/>

So, I guess I will close on that note. I truly hope you enjoy this edition of the *Rainbow Reveille*. Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and enjoyable holiday season... Rainbow, Never Forget! Gary Yaple, RDVF Chairman

[Ed. Photo by Melanie Remple; a past president of the RDVF Millennium Chapter, she also served several years as the RDVF National Secretary; her great uncle, 1st Sgt. Ferdinand Framstad, K/222 served in the same 42nd Division infantry regiment as Pvt Robert L. Skaar]



A BETTER STEP FORWARD

If you have been following my articles these past few issues you will have noticed the focus on dealing with post-traumatic stress, a crisis that impacts our veteran community. Since Vietnam, a major cause of death for veterans is suicide. It is a painful statistic that 3 times as many Vietnam Veterans have actively taken their own lives since returning home than died in Southeast Asia. Note that this statistic does not count the drug/alcohol deaths, those who succumbed to the elements while homeless, or others who just gave up and faded away. But it isn't just the older veteran population having this crisis: it is an active, living legacy impacting our modern forces. Suicide remains disproportionately high among veterans of every service, and every time of service, from Vietnam to current active-duty personnel.

For those who commit it, suicide is seen as an option, and the reasons seem justified at the time. There are many who want to end the pain or confusion that engulf their lives. Other cases are more mysterious. Despite the military's mental health programs, suicide prevention initiatives, and decreasing stigma concerning depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), the problem remains pervasive. The current trend of greater social isolation has only fueled the problem as we see in both veterans and the young adults who make up most of our armed forces today. Aside from suicide many of our veterans live with major depression, addiction and in social isolation.

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. I believe it takes solid community to keep us healthy. Having a place to communicate thoughts, concerns, and needs is a vital part of our DNA as humans. Having a place to help us process our fears, doubts and conflicting thoughts is also a necessity. Because it is intimidating, we often avoid addressing our mental health needs.

We know, however, that avoiding an issue doesn't make it go away.

I am proud to say that the 42nd Division and the NY National Guard were instrumental in developing the Army's Yellow Ribbon Program. Designed to bring Soldiers and their families together after deployment, it serves to educate and provide resources to families in the new normal of post-deployment life. This is something our Vietnam veterans never had an opportunity to experience. These programs are excellent in guiding Soldiers and family members who are still in the service and in the years following separation. Post-service, however, it is not uncommon for unresolved issues to become problematic, sometimes resulting in crisis. Even if opportunities and assistance are available, we often aren't willing to work on the issues, believing that "it's ok," and "we are fine." Statistics show otherwise.

Throughout our nation's history, private organizations and groups have risen to fill the needs for service members and veterans. The Salvation Army, USO and others have seen the need and with commitment, zeal, and a little hutzpah, done their best to serve our soldiers and veterans both in and out of theater. This caring commitment by thoughtful civilians continues today. In most regions you can find excellent voluntary opportunities for veterans to find a community and focused healing. One in our area, Greenwich New York, is an Episcopal Church retreat called the "Welcome Home Initiative" (<https://ctkcenter.org/9-events/186-2024-who-fall-retreat>). Run by veterans for veterans this program and others like it bring fellow warriors together. These opportunities to remember and reevaluate our personal histories have proven life changing events.

Another program is Honor Flight, a day long excursion bringing WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans to Washington DC in gratitude for keeping us a nation of the free and home of the brave. Most importantly, such encounters remind each of us that we have been, and we still are, part of something bigger than ourselves: a nation of goodness forging a better future. We haven't sacrificed in vain.

I hope that you will take my advice and investigate such opportunities. They are usually free of charge and, if not immediately in your vicinity, worth the longer trip. I encourage families to go along for support, and many of these retreats have offerings to family members. You can also find a battle buddy to go with you to share the experience together. More than a good idea, I have witnessed the life-giving benefits this investment can achieve. Think of it as an investment in yourself and those you love.

Blessings, Chaplain (Col.) Ret. Eric W. Olsen

Almighty and eternal God, Lord of the universe and Father of the world to come, Your goodness is beyond what our spirit can fathom and your strength is more than our minds can comprehend. Your love of us surpasses all our hopes and desires and is greater than all our dreams. As we honor our brave comrades-in-arms on this Veterans Day, 1983, we call to mind the sacrifice of those brave men who laid down their lives for their country. We recall all those who have left our ranks in the intervening years and have joined those who have gone before. We ask You to keep alive in our hearts the love of our country and our commitment to a better world that inspired these comrades of ours. Help our country to be strong and united in our determination that all men may live in peace and freedom. In Your Son's name, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Robert F. Weiss, S.J.

National RDVF Chaplain

Co. M, 222nd Infantry Regiment,

42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, WWII

Reprinted from the November 1983 issue of REVEILLE

OUR RAINBOW SCHOLARS

By Tammy Moss-Hicks
RDVF Scholarship Chairman

This August, fourteen applicants became the latest recipients in a proud history of Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation Scholarship awardees. The awardees showed a strong array of skills in academics, writing abilities, and dedication to futures of service. Applicants described their close relationship to their sponsors and the lessons learned from having parents and loved ones deploy to serve with the 42ID. A common theme was being in charge of younger siblings and learning new responsibilities. These

responsibilities helped awardees grow up and become individuals their family members are proud to recommend for RDVF Scholarships.

The Scholarship committee congratulates the following undergraduate students as the 2024 Scholarship awardees:

MacArthur Award \$5,000

Peyton Owen

Stillman F. Sawyer Award \$3,000

Jordan DelDuca

Edward and Lillian Kaiser Award \$3,000

Rebecca Palmer

The Major General Joseph J. Taluto Award \$2,250

Brooklyn Ayres

The News Corp.-Robert T. Kennedy Award \$2,250

Olivia Cappalano

42nd Infantry Division Association Award \$2,250

Abigail Vorlicek

222d Infantry Regiment Award \$2,250

Jonathan Panarese

242d Infantry Regiment Award \$2,250

Ellie Garlich

Ted Johnson Award \$1,500

Aidan Bailie

Walter and Virginia Duhacsek \$1,500

Mason Albert

Ted Simonson Award \$1,500

Carter Olson

RDVF Award \$750

Abby Yaple

Angelino Calbo

Joseph Solmo

Congratulations to all scholarship awardees!
We hope this award helps you realize your goals.

RAINBOW ASSISTANCE for VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (RAVE) Scholarship Pilot Program

In a new and exciting initiative, The RDVF Board has approved a new initiative dedicated to serving soldiers. The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (RDVF) awards vocational scholarships up to \$2,000.00 to currently-serving soldiers assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division (to include "Division Aligned Units").

This scholarship is only available to enlisted soldiers and warrant officers in the grade of WO1 or CW2 who are pursuing a vocational program degree or certification. It is a one-time award; soldiers may only receive one RAVE scholarship. Courses or classes should be directly related to acquiring necessary skills to advance your civilian career in the industry.

These courses could include diesel mechanics, welding, bookkeeping, CDL driver school, or crane operator certification, for example.

If you are pursuing a two-year degree, four-year degree or postgraduate work, you are not eligible for a RAVE Scholarship.

Watch for updates on the RDVF website for information regarding this new vocation initiative for currently serving soldiers and WO1 or CW2 pursuing civilian advancement in skills. Proof of current educational enrollment, specific needs, as well as proof of service in good standing within 42ID or aligned units is required.

UNTIL OUR NEXT POST

By Patrick J. Chaisson
RDVF Historian

It was August of 2013 when then-RDVF Chairman Maj. Gen. (Retired) Joseph J. Taluto asked me to serve as the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation historian. It wouldn't take up too much time, he promised, "maybe a couple of hours every three or four months."

General Taluto was wrong about the historian job only taking up a little bit of my time, but for eleven years I got to meet the most wonderful people, hear their stories, and share tales of the 42nd Infantry Division with fellow soldiers, family members, and friends of the Rainbow.

For this, my last *Rainbow Reveille* historian's column, I'd like to review a few of those stories.

When I came on board as its historian, the RDVF was in the midst of an organizational shift. We were transforming ourselves into a charitable foundation, and part of my job was to keep track of that change. We needed to demonstrate to our members, both old and new, that this charity still mattered.



Several historian's articles discussed a mission central to the RDVF's charter. We described the memorials put in place across Europe and the U.S. that paid homage to the valor of those 42nd Division soldiers who served before us. Whether our subject was an amphitheater at old Camp Gruber, an ossuary commemorating the Fourth Battle of Champagne, or a simple plaque recognizing our Iraq War mobilization stations at Forts Drum and Dix – we told that story.

People are the heart of any organization, and we told plenty of soldiers' stories too. One particular favorite was the tale of First Sergeant John H. Wintrobe, an infantryman who fought with the Rainbow Division both in World War I and World War II. Or Friedrich Florian Gartler, a teenager in postwar Austria, whose encounters with 42nd Infantry Division occupation troops inspired him to design the National World War II Memorial in Washington DC almost six decades later.

We tried to connect the families of veterans with museums and archives that could help them learn more about their Rainbow ancestor's service. We also listed several exhibit galleries across the nation where folks could discover new facts about the wartime exploits of our 42nd Infantry Division.

A particularly well-received column appeared in the April 2015 *Rainbow Reveille*. Entitled "Our History is in Your Hands", this piece helped answer readers' questions about what to do with their Rainbow ancestor's wartime documents, uniforms, and souvenirs after that former soldier passed on.

Many Foundation members asked us what it was like to serve with the 42nd Division in combat. We devoted several articles to the special equipment, weapons, and organizational functions found throughout the Rainbow's 100+ years of service. Topics such as medical evacuation, the M3 "Grease Gun", and even the rations eaten by soldiers over time all earned a place in the historian's column.

Three times a year (usually), we worked in collaboration with the *Rainbow Reveille* editor to produce an article on the 42nd's history. A word about the woman who puts together this newsletter: Mrs. Suellen McDaniel is a treasure. Her knowledge of the Rainbow Division, its veterans, and the RDVF (including former associations and chapters) is encyclopedic.

Suellen has assisted thousands of family members, researchers, and others over the years. We remain eternally grateful to this daughter of a Rainbow Division combat veteran for her decades of selfless commitment to our veterans. Thank you, Suellen.

One unexpected role for the historian was to help answer questions (usually 2-3 inquiries a month) from people interested in some aspect of the 42nd Infantry Division. Again, Suellen McDaniel performed the lion's share of this research but welcomed my input whenever I could contribute something



meaningful.

The job of historian also involved certain "special projects". Working to make possible the Operation Iraqi Freedom mobilization memorials proved to be a highlight, as was the creation of our "heritage room" in the 42ID headquarters building. It was both a great thrill and a sharp stabbing pain in the shoulder to help organize our Foundation's 2018 trip to France – I will forever value the insight and steady guidance of former Division Commander MG(R) Steve Wickstrom, as well as the friendship of our tour guide Brigadier John Smales, Royal Army, on that trip.



Nevertheless, after doing this for well over a decade, I recognize it's time to bring in fresh perspectives and new ideas.

Starting on January 1st 2025, Jonathon Molik will take over the reins as RDVF Historian. He is an excellent choice – Jon is

passionate about history, very skilled with the research tools we now need to answer your questions, and it doesn't hurt to know that he is also a combat veteran of the 42nd Infantry Division. Please welcome him into the position as you have welcomed me.

In conclusion, it has been a great ride. Chairman Gary Yaple has reminded me that this ride isn't quite over – I will continue to work with the Foundation on several exciting projects that contribute to our core mission statement. Wait until you see the website we are creating!

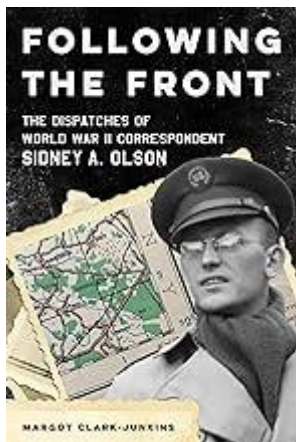
Thanks to MG(R) Taluto for asking me to take this on, to Suellen McDaniel for her friendship and incredible wealth of knowledge over these past eleven years, and BG(R) Gary Yaple for allowing me to move on. Never Forget!

Photo One: Following the dedication ceremony for the Fort Drum Mobilization Station commemorative plaque on June 28, 2014, RDVF Chairman MG(R) Joseph Taluto and RDVF Historian Pat Chaisson pose for a photo.

Photo Two: this is part of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation display installed in 2016 at the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters building in Troy, New York.

Photo Three: The RDVF took 48 friends, veterans, and descendants of Rainbow soldiers to France in 2018. There, we visited the cemeteries, memorials, and battlefields on which 42nd Division soldiers fought, bled, and died during World War One.

FOLLOWING THE FRONT The Dispatches of World War II Correspondent SIDNEY A. OLSON



In the RAINBOW TRAIL History Newsletter August 2023 edition posted at <rainbowvets.org> in the NEWS section, author Margot Clark-Junkins first acquainted us with the presence of her grandfather, war correspondent Sidney A. Olson at Dachau Concentration Camp on the day of liberation, 29 April 2024.

In this RAINBOW TRAIL article, Margot wrote, "The family had always known dimly that Olson had written "a piece about Dachau" for TIME. We knew little else. We read his 18-page dispatch about

Dachau with horror and surprise. He had never, not once, described that fateful day—April 29, 1945."

<https://rdvmfi.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/rdvmfi/pressRoom.jsp>

Now, a 412-page compilation of his WWII dispatches and letters to his family are available to purchase as hardcover or as Kindle on Amazon.com, bookstores or Rowman, Littlefield Publishers. This book is highly recommended as a fine addition to any historian's library, schools and libraries.

New 42nd Infantry Division commander promoted to two-star rank

by Eric Durr, October 22, 2024



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, New York—Palm Harbor, Florida resident Jack James, the new commander of the Troy-based 42nd Infantry Division, was promoted to the two-star rank of Major General in the New York

Army National Guard during a Saturday, October 19, ceremony at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill, New York.

James is a 1992 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, who previously served as one of the division's deputy commanders.

The 42nd Infantry Division consists of 5,400 Soldiers in the New York Army National Guard and 10,000 Soldiers from other state National Guards. The division is one of eight divisions in the Army National Guard.

James was serving as the commander of the New York Army National Guard's 53rd Troop Command, which is headquartered at Camp Smith. He turned over command of that unit to Brig. Gen. Isabel Rivera Smith prior to his promotion ceremony.

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, praised James as an outstanding commander.

"Achieving major general is a huge accomplishment for anyone," Shields said. "It denotes a high degree of trust and confidence in the abilities, leadership and moral character of the individual."

"And being promoted to major general and also assigned as a division commanding general is even more monumental of an achievement," Shields said.



In his remarks, James emphasized that he could not have achieved his rank and division commander position without the support of peers and subordinates in the Army and the support of his family.

"Today is not about me, it's about us. I would not be here without each and all of you," he said.

"This is a responsibility, a privilege, and a real honor that I am so grateful to all of you for," he said.

"I look forward to it and I will not let you down," James added.

James noted how his Army career was divided into two acts.

In June of 2001 he left the Active Army after deployments to Haiti and the Balkans and was starting a civilian career. But on Sept. 11, 2001, he watched the attacks on New York City and resolved to join the New York Army National Guard.

James is an Army aviator who has served in a number of leadership and staff positions during his career.

He has led American Soldiers at the platoon, troop, battalion, brigade and general officer levels.

He has served as an attack helicopter platoon leader, attack helicopter troop commander, battalion operations officer, battalion executive officer, brigade operations officer, and battalion commander. He led the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade from 2014 to 2019, thereafter serving as Commanding General, 53rd Troop Command and then Deputy Commander, 42nd Infantry Division prior to returning once again to command the 53rd Troop Command.

During his career, James has deployed on multiple occasions.

In addition to his overseas service, James has participated in responses to numerous domestic emergencies including Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy and others. James is a traditional National Guard Soldier who has balanced civilian and military careers for over twenty years. In his civilian career, James serves as a Vice President at New York Life Insurance Company.

James is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Army War College and holds an MBA from New York University. He is a Master Army Aviator and is rated in the AH-64, AH-1, UH-60, UH-1 and fixed wing aircraft.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, two Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medals, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, two Humanitarian Service Medals, three Overseas Service Ribbons, and the NATO Medal.

He also holds the Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and other federal and state awards.

Photo credit: New York National Guard photos by Staff Sergeant Matthew Gunther

Photo One: Major General Jack James has his new rank pinned on by his family during his promotion ceremony at Camp Smith Training Site, NY on 19 October 2024

Photo Two: Major General Jack James gives remarks during his promotion ceremony

NEW YORK GUARD HELPS in Hurricane Recovery Sep./Oct. 2024



New York Army National Guard Capt. Jeff Tampe, left, and chief Warrant Officer 2 Adam Wilcox pilot a CH-47F heavy lift helicopter assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion 126th General support Aviation Battalion from the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rochester, New York to Donaldson Army Aviation Support Facility in Greenville, South Carolina in order to support the North Carolina National Guard in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene on Sept. 29, 2024. Three New York Army National Guard CH-47F helicopters will operate out of the Greenville facility flying missions in support of the North Carolina National Guard.

(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Sacco).



New York Army National Guard Soldiers pose for a photo with members of a Kentucky Emergency Management team after offloading relief supplies from a CH-47F Chinook helicopter at the Smokey Mountain Event Center in

Waynesville, North Carolina on October 1, 2024. The New York Army National Guard dispatched three CH-47s assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, in support of the North Carolina National Guard on Sept. 29, 2024. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Sacco)



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Tyler Linendol, an infantryman assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), cuts down tree branches with a chainsaw following Hurricane Milton in Palmetto, Florida, Oct. 11, 2024. Soldiers from the 27th IBCT worked with members of the Florida Army National Guard to provide relief to communities impacted by the hurricane. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joseph Liggio)

NAVARIN FARM MEMORIAL Centenary Ceremony for the Inauguration of the Memorial Sunday 22nd September 2024



Photos of this ceremony by French photographer, Beatrice Dahm.

From the article by Brig. Gen. John W. Donaldson accompanying this 1983 photo:

“Following the inspection of troops, General Philippe Gouraud took the microphone and explained briefly that the remains of a French soldier who had fought with one of the regiments at St. Hilaire-le-Grand, a few kilometers from the Memorial, had been discovered one week ago, and had been placed in a position of honor under the French flag before the Memorial in order that he might be properly

recognized on this occasion. He then invited General Houdet, Secretary General Vonvert, the Veterans Associations and myself to lay our wreaths around the flag-covered casket of the World War I hero.

“The Rainbow Cushion which I had the honor of laying was as usual very beautiful with its fresh flowers depicting the Rainbow Shoulder Patch against a background of gold. After the last wreath had been laid, the French bugler, then the American bugler, rendered the two versions of *Taps*. Both were beautifully executed, the French with the



roll of the drums and the American, a pure distant sound with a lingering final note that faded gently away.

“The final event of the first part of the program was the pass-in-review of the troops, led by the band, with the American Color Guard following the French Infantry Company and its colors. As mentioned above, the Americans were an impressive sight, with its battle streamers, and the Rainbow Division flag all snapping proudly in the breeze....”



[Brig. Gen. Donaldson served in WWII as a member of the 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd “Rainbow” Division; he subsequently served in Korea and Vietnam; he represented the United States each year at this solemn commemoration and contributed lengthy, descriptive articles for *The Rainbow Reveille* each year on his experience; in the first photo by Beatrice Dahm, Charles Diaz, Superintendent, American Battle Monuments Commission, Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, France is laying a wreath; the U.S. Army fought in this area in the Second Battle of the Marne]

RAINBOW RIFLEMEN

By Robert Spearing III, Co. G, 242nd Inf., 42nd Division



*Bob Spearing and his wife, Lillian, October 6, 2005
(from the collection of Tom and Mayland Crosson)*

PART 4 (continued from RAINBOW TRAIL August 2024)

I wanted very much to see the Statue of Liberty on the way out of the river, but a Marine came by and ordered us all below.

He said he could understand our feelings, but that he was just obeying orders. The main reason for this was that the ship would soon be passing through the anti-submarine net just south of Fort Hamilton at the narrows, and this action was just a matter of security.

By this time, all the tugs, including the *E.F. Moran* (which joined us for a short while) had cast off. Pilot J.C. Cashin had left on the tug, *Howard C. Moore*. At 13:49, the ship has passed through the anti-submarine net. A few minutes later, we troops are called to the decks for an “abandon ship” drill. This was just a matter of lining up at a particular area and having our names called. It is a typical, hurry up and wait, Army/Navy exercise. While standing for this, the ship is making its way into the open bay and the lower Ambrose Channel.

At this point, we can feel the lift of the oncoming swells from the sea. Our last pilot, Lt. Commander R. Cramer, leaves the ship in a small launch at 12:52 p.m. At 3:16 p.m., we are finally dismissed from the abandon ship drill and duck below to our quarters.

Now there is something very important to do, and right away! The ship’s store is now open, and I don’t think that anyone else realizes it! Now is the time to get there and place our order for cigarettes and candy before the line forms!

Don Parrish and I have pooled our finances ahead of time just for this occasion. Looking as inconspicuous as we can, we saunter out of the bunk area to the passageway heading to the store. Much to our delight, we are the first and only ones to arrive! We are elated. We believe that we have pulled off a grand coup on all of our buddies. Being first, will certainly mean first choice!

The man in the store leans on the counter and asks us what we want. Our first order is for twenty cartons of cigarettes. We would like to have half Camels and half Lucky Strikes. The man looks at us sadly and shakes his head. He is very sorry, but the only brand he has is Old Golds (the motto for these, as everyone knew by heart, was “Not a cough in a carload!”). They were so mild that one might as well have been smoking corn silk. In fact, I think corn silk might have had more kick to it. It was a brand neither Parrish nor I would buy, but here we were, headed for Europe where there just wasn’t any to buy, and we’d sure better buy these if these were all there were to be had.

[image by Old Gold Cigarettes; archive at Wikimedia Commons]



With what funds we had left, after purchasing the cigarettes, we bought several tins of mixed, salted nuts, a delicacy I hadn’t had in months, and then scurried back with our prizes where we could divide them equally. We actually felt that we had done quite well in spite of the circumstances.

A few moments later, my assistant squad leader, Sgt. Godwin, arrives back from the store with ten cartons of Lucky Strikes. He didn’t have to tell us. In an instant, Parrish and I knew that we had been had! Godwin was chuckling as he told us that the store man had just passed off all the “Old Golds he could never sell to anyone else” on two staff sergeants who had been his first customers. It seems that it was his standard procedure to unload all of his slow-moving merchandise first. Neither Parrish nor I said anything. We felt like the two biggest suckers in the world! Now we were stuck with butts that no one would want to trade. Well, maybe we could pass them off on the French. We would soon learn the French didn’t want them, either.

The time is now 5:30 and the ship is headed on a southeasterly course. We’re angling just off the Jersey coast, which is some four miles to our right. If we hold this course during the early hours of the evening, the ship will pass Asbury Park, Manasquan Inlet, Seaside Heights, Beach Haven, Barnegat Lighthouse, Atlantic City, and Cape May. Being a surf fisherman, I know all these places intimately. It is, indeed, a fond farewell for me. The Jersey shore has always been a favorite place of mine.

At 5:40 p.m., our ship is now in convoy taking 1-2- slot, which means the first ship in the second column of convoy UGT-17B. Our captain is also designated Vice Commodore of the convoy.

It will soon be dark and there is one more thing that I must see. Parrish has never seen what I am about to show him and he needs no prodding to follow me as I make my way forward past the ship’s anchor chains to its already pitching bow. I am a little surprised that no one has tried to stop us even as we walk to the very prow. It takes me but a few seconds to locate what I am seeking, but there they are, one on each side of the ship’s stem. Looking down, we can see two small porpoises rising and falling in the clear, green water in perfect rhythm with the ship’s pace – the seaman’s sign of a safe voyage.

WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST

Deaths Reported Since April 2024

HALVERSON, William 122d Medical Battalion
POUDER, George W. B/142d Combat Engineers
SKAAR, Robert L. C/222d Infantry Regiment

THE VISION

The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation will live on in perpetuity by attracting new members through social and educational interaction, and by demonstrating its loyalty and commitment to past, present and future soldiers who served in or with the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division. The Foundation membership will continue to build upon the legacy of the gallant men and women who have served; recognizing their valor, heroism and patriotism, and the sacrifices made by them and their families. Through its fundraising efforts the Foundation will fulfill its mission of maintaining the traditions and memorials of past generations while providing an avenue for recording new traditions and creating new memorials for the history made by the current and future generations of Rainbow Division soldiers and their families.

THE MISSION

The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization dedicated to commemorating the deeds, sacrifices and traditions of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division through memorials, education and preserving the Legacy of the 42nd Division.

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC.

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Steve and Susan Snyder; Naomi McKim; James Scowden; Janelle Dyer; Gib Meyers; Becky Meyers; Rick Meyers,; Randy, Jordan and Ashley Meyers; Brett and Stephanie Scowden; Frank Scowden; Tim and Maggie Scowden; Chris and Michelle Slayden; and Wes Snyder.

All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged. If you would like to make a contribution by U.S. mail, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, check payable to RDVF and mailed to:

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