



REVEILLE

VOL. CVII OCTOBER 2025 NO. 2
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY – JULY, OCTOBER, JANUARY, APRIL
PUBLISHED ONLINE AT <RAINBOWVETS.ORG>

**SARATOGA SPRINGS
REUNION**
Global War on Terror
Operation Iraqi Freedom III
Twenty Years Later
19-21 September 2025

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



Chairman’s Message



Greetings RDVF members! Welcome to another edition of the Rainbow Reveille. We closed out the summer with a very memorable GWOT and OIF III reunion in Saratoga Springs on 19-21 September. I want to thank all who joined us and made it such an exceptional time. The weather was spectacular and the company we kept was even better! It was such a warm and welcoming environment where everyone was welcomed back to share in the memories. Can you believe 20 years have passed already since the famed 42d Infantry Division led Task Force Liberty in Operation Iraqi Freedom III under the command of MG Joe Taluto? Everyone in attendance had served during the Global War on Terror multiple times under the Division and the Brigades across the rainbow. Just off the top of my head there was representation, from the 27th Brigade, 50th Brigade (now 44th), 108th Infantry Regiment, 105th MPs, TF Guantanamo, and so many more. The 27th Division Association, Association of the United States Army and Military Officers Association were represented as well. It was truly a reunion to remember and one that cut across the multiple facets and the decades of service our Rainbow Division Soldiers have selflessly given to our nation. And as you know, the 42d Division continues this service today, deployed to Kuwait as HQs, TF Spartan.



The reunion kicked off on Friday evening with a welcome social. It was great to see old friends again for the first time in many years. John Willsey, Robert Giordano, Karin Tirinato, Paul Fanning, Paul Hujer, Floyd Goska and so many more contributed to the planning, set-up, support, photography, and incredible displays that reminded us of and honored our service. That evening we also took a moment to recognize three Board Members who have served their board terms with distinction and honor. Paul Fanning, Pat Chaisson, and Kelly Fancher all received an engraved, boxed, 42d RDVF Commemorative Coin in recognition for their dedication to our mission. Their service to the RDVF has been impressive to say the least. They emulate better than most the term “Never Forget”.



Saturday morning for most was a little foggy (not the weather), but we conjured up a platoon of the willing to experience a tour of the Saratoga National Battlefield. Just 250 years ago our nation was born, and the Saratoga Battle played such a significant role. Pat Chaisson was on duty as historian, yet again, to provide the background and context from all points of the battle. As it was the 250th anniversary, we were fortunate to witness and experience the full complement of Revolutionary and British re-enactors on site. Thank you, Pat, for an amazing tour and for your wonderful account of our nation’s history. For others, looking for a more hotel-local option, there was the New York State Military Museum just a few short blocks away. This museum is dedicated to the History of our New York Military Forces and to New York’s service to our Nation. If you are ever in Saratoga, this museum is a must see. It’s housed in the Saratoga National Guard Armory, an artifact in and of itself.



Photo captions on page 8

Please make the trip. I know you will love it!

RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation
Published Since 1917

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FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

Gary Yaple

3427 Long Shadow Dr Baldwinsville, NY 13027
gyaple1@gmail.com (585)507-8363

FOUNDATION VICE CHAIRMAN

Harry Miller

32 Pulpit Rd Bedford, NH 03110
harry.e.miller58@gmail.com (603)321-5070

MEMORIALS OFFICER Emeritus

Paul Fanning

150 Thimbleberry Rd Malta, NY 12020-4377
pafanning@outlook.com (518)899-8194

RDVF MEMORIALS OFFICER

Robert Giordano

giordano2mass@gmail.com (518)852-6413

FOUNDATION SECRETARY

Patrick Macklin

pmacklin@optonline.net
(516) 578-6020 after 4pm

FOUNDATION TREASURER

Peter P. Riley

22 Almond Tree Lane Warwick, NY 10990-2442
petermiley22@icloud.com

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Reginald Sanders

13583 Cedar Vale Rd Henderson, NY 13650
Log007@aol.com (315)489-7015

RDVF HISTORIAN Emeritus

Patrick Chaisson

508 Glen Avenue Scotia, NY 12302-1412
patchais@aol.com 518-641-2731

RDVF Historian

Jon Molik

21 Maya Dr. Gansevoort, NY 12831
jon.molik@gmail.com 518-727-7882

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Tammy E. Moss-Hicks

18 Columbine Ave., South Glens Falls, NY
12803

Tel: 518-409-0610 or

Email: 42IDScholars@gmail.com

EVENTS COORDINATOR

John J. Willsey

48 McDonald Dr Cohoes, NY 12047-1119
jwillsc@aol.com (518)496-2669

REVEILLE EDITOR

Suellen R. McDaniel

1400 Knolls Drive Newton, NC 28658-9452
(828) 464-1466 jmac1400@aol.com

Vol. CVII October 2025 No. 2

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Published July, October, January, April

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS TO: REVEILLE

EDITOR: Suellen R. McDaniel (address above)

REPORTING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Missourian Publishing Company
6321 Bluff Rd Washington, MO 63090
c/o Emily Tobben tobbene@emissourian.com

Saturday evening brought the reunion to its pinnacle event. We were honored to have MG Jack James, 42d Division Commander, and his leadership team, deliver an address from their HQs in Kuwait where he described their mission and ongoing work as TF Spartan. It was great to see our comrades proudly carrying the Division Colors forward as they carve yet another chapter into the Rainbow history books.



The honors continued as MG Joseph Taluto addressed the audience about the service of the 42d in OIF III. He did what great commanders do. He reflected on the events and incredible service of his Soldiers on September 20th, 2005, exactly 20 years to the day. His words reminded us of how far we have come, that our service rendered truly matters and that it had such a huge and positive impact on the people we served and the freedoms we continue to fight for.

Michael “Rod” Rodriguez then took the stage and put a “ribbon” on this entire reunion package. Rod is president and CEO for the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation*. He led off with his remarks talking about why there will be a memorial emplaced at our Nation’s Capital to honor the service of all who fought during the GWOT Era. He reaffirmed that this is about more than just the Soldiers. It’s about the family sacrifices, those lost in action, the many who continue to battle with PTSD and so much more. He stated how proud he was to address our group, noting that we were at the fight since the very beginning of it all. He reminded us that within hours of the terrorist attacks on 9/11, our Division was on mission at ground zero in lower Manhattan, and just a few short months later, preparing to deploy overseas to prosecute our Nation’s war against Terrorism. This memorial is for us and our families, it’s about us and our service, and must be completed and placed proudly among all other National Memorials in Washington D.C. The service of our Division, our units, our Soldiers, our families and the continued service of our veterans really does matter. This is why we are getting a National Memorial. At the end of Rod’s remarks, you could have heard a pin drop. It was such a moving and memorable moment. MG Taluto and Rod Rodriguez were the perfect speakers, at the perfect time, and both represented so much about our 42d Infantry Division Service. On behalf of the RDVF, I can’t thank them enough for supporting our event and for providing such inspirational words. In appreciation, we presented them with RDVF Commemorative Coins, and we also presented the GWOT Memorial Foundation with a \$5000 contribution towards the new Memorial.



All in all, it was a very successful reunion. But this was not an easy event to pull off. I give my heartfelt gratitude to John Willsey and Rob Giordano who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the entire thing together. You are the best! Thank you!

You can see more pictures of the weekend by going to our brand-new website at:

<https://www.Rainbowvets.org>

I could go on and on about the reunion and the tremendous time we all had. Thanks again to all who participated and made it great. Alas, there is much more to do in the future with the RDVF. If you have interest in becoming more involved, please reach out. We have big plans in the coming year and it’s only going to grow from there! We are so proud of the work we do, and I stand by my words, “The RDVF is very blessed to have such a talented and devoted group of volunteers and slate of Directors on the Board.” Thanks again for another productive quarter and I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Rainbow, Never Forget!
Gary Yaple, RDVF Chairman

ARMISTICE/VETERANS DAY 2025 – November 11

107 years ago, in 1918, the Armistice between the Allied nations and Germany was signed. On this anniversary, all military personnel who served in wartime are honored.

Never Forget!

OIF III. Twenty Years Later

Jon Molik, RDVF Historian

Twenty years is a long time. Two decades. Enough to get married; buy your first home, sell it, and buy another; have, raise, and send children to college; and retire from military service. So much of life can happen in twenty years. That is how long ago the 42 Infantry Division Headquarters led four Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) III from its Forward Operating Base in Tikrit, Iraq. Twenty years.

A few weeks ago, September 19-21, 2025, 42 Infantry Division (ID) soldiers, along with their families and friends, gathered in Saratoga Springs, New York, to celebrate and remember that life-changing event in 2005. To ponder their contributions to the United States-led effort to remove Saddam Hussein from power and construct a democratic government dedicated to protecting its people and partnering peaceably with its neighbors. Hundreds came to mix and mingle through the late summer weekend. Former staff officers commiserated over tense briefings with

then-Chief of Staff Colonel Gordon Mereness, a passionate and driven boss; young-soldiers-turned-leaders compared careers and remembered how things were “back in the day;” and families supported those who lost loved ones in support of the mission.

The Rainbow Division’s OIF III deployment was historic. Not since the Korean War (1950-53) had the Department of Defense (DoD) called upon a National Guard division headquarters to lead brigades in combat, some of which were from the active component.

While true that National Guard units had served alongside, or under the command of, active army units throughout history, empowering a National Guard division command to oversee active army brigades was atypical, and an enormous responsibility. I distinctly remember active duty officers shrugging their shoulders and complaining that “the 42ID wasn’t an actual unit in the Army” (that they knew of) and “branch must have made a mistake when generating orders to join The Rainbow at Fort Drum.” As they say, *times were a changin’*.

The Global War on Terror (GWOT) was a unique time for America’s military. No longer did soldiers face a uniformed enemy, under a recognizable flag, following universal legal combat standards. Instead, they hunted civilian-clothed fighters who lurked in the shadows, masked their intentions, hid among civilians, and snuck across international borders. While the Viet Cong used similar tactics during the Vietnam War, American soldiers at least faced a uniformed enemy some of the time. Afghanistan and Iraq had no such foe. Ironically, this challenge allowed National Guard units, like our famed Rainbow, to excel. Active component units are well trained in their specific duties and practice their skills against traditional, albeit notional, enemies before entering combat. While the same is true for National Guard units, the part-timers bring experience from the civilian ranks the active component does not. National Guard units are comprised of police officers, detectives, intelligence analysts, doctors, teachers, mechanics, business owners, bankers, carpenters, etc. These professions allow National Guard soldiers to bring non-traditional perspectives to the fight. In fact, members of the 42ID often found themselves educating their

active component counterparts on civilian-based tactics that enhanced their capabilities.

The hodgepodge of sheet metal and plywood used as armor to protect our High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) early in the mission serves as a useful example. During the first few years of the war, the enemy’s Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) (roadside bombs) became increasingly powerful and deadly. The problem? Most of the vehicles—with the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank and M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle as the primary exceptions—had soft, cloth tops that provided little to no protection from rifle fire, mortars, and bombs. This left units to acquire whatever materials they could find, often from scrap yards, to affix to their vehicles for protection. (The DoD would later address the concern with up-armored vehicle variants.) Active duty units learned quickly that National Guard soldiers, those mechanics, welders, carpenters, etc., had skills in crafting makeshift protections the active duty simply did not possess. It was often Rainbow soldiers who designed and constructed the external vehicle shielding that saved innumerable lives.



Another example is the experience Rainbow police officers brought to the desert from their local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Counterinsurgency, the technical term for the operations Rainbow forces conducted while in theater, requires a law enforcement-like perspective. Unlike traditional combat, establishing relationships with local citizens, constructing schools, working with politicians, and investigating insurgent networks akin to organized crime rings, were key responsibilities during OIF III. While active duty Army forces were getting their feet wet in this new environment, 42ID soldiers were busy injecting into towns like Samara, Tikrit, and Baquba the capabilities and tactics they brought from New York City, Buffalo, and Albany.

In addition to various meaningful stories and heart-felt memories from each other, attendees were also greeted by Major General Joseph J. Taluto (Ret.), the division’s OIF III commander and leader ultimately responsible for demonstrating to the DoD that National Guard senior commands were capable of fighting as part of the Total Force concept during GWOT. He spoke to colleagues and friends, shook hands with families, and reminisced with former members of his team. Major General Taluto was the face of The Rainbow in 2005. Whether in meetings with local Iraqi politicians, in front of international news cameras, or in briefings with the most senior American military commanders, he demonstrated to everyone he met that the National Guard, particularly the 42 Infantry Division, was a formidable command. As demonstrated during the reunion just weeks ago, he continues doing the same today.

Photo captions, Historian's report:

Photo One - Reprinted from the January 2025 issue of the Rainbow REVEILLE, then-RDVF Historian, Patrick J. Chaisson wrote:

FORT DRUM, NY: In 2004, while mobilized with the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, then-Specialist Elizabeth Kirkby volunteered to decorate a large rock that stood in the Division area at Fort Drum with the Rainbow Division crest. Twenty years later, Elizabeth again volunteered to restore the image on that rock. Driving to Fort Drum from her residence in the Syracuse area, she updated The Division Rock with a "Never Forget" slogan and used modern sealants to preserve her work for many years to come. This restoration project was performed in cooperation with the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation. (photo provided)

Recommended reading: The April 2020 issue of the Rainbow REVEILLE article by MG(Ret) Joseph Taluto – *15 Years Ago (Part II) 42nd Mobilized for Combat Mission in Iraq*
<https://rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/Rainbow-Reveille-April-2020.pdf>

Photo Two – *Saratoga Reunion display: Convoy from Camp Phoenix; Combined Joint Task Force VII Operation Enduring Freedom 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New York Army National Guard, Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan, October 2008*

ENJOYING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY – The American Revolution Institute By Dr. Monique B. Seefried

It has been a great honor for me to be asked to serve on the Board of Advisors of the American Revolution Institute (ARI) whose mission is

“To ensure that all Americans understand and appreciate the legacy of the American Revolution – the event that secured our national independence, established our republic, created our national identity, and articulated ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship that have shaped our nation's history and will shape the future of the world.”

ARI was established in 2012 to form the outreach/educational arm of the Society of the Cincinnati, established in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army and their French counterparts. A patriotic and fraternal organization composed of 14 societies from the original 13 states and France, its members are descendants of officers who served during the American Revolution.

With the creation of the American Revolution Institute, housed at Anderson House in Washington, the Society of the Cincinnati offers now to the general public, teachers, students, and scholars, a wide array of resources, from the extraordinary holdings of its library and archives filled with rare and original documents, to its exhibitions, public lectures, battlefields tours and videos, especially its Year in Revolution video series.

I invite you all to explore its website <https://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/> and if you are in Washington, to discover the exhibitions that will cover, year by year, the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Saratoga Battlefield Tour

Stillwater, NY: A group of Rainbow Division veterans, their spouses, and friends visited the Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater, NY, on Saturday, September 20, 2025 to learn more about the battles fought here that changed the course of the Revolutionary War 248 years ago. Living historians were on hand to demonstrate camp life and 18th Century musket drill. *Caption by Pat Chaisson; Photos are contributed by Patrick Chaisson and Gary Yaple*



A Demonstration Of Arms

Reenactment of British Soldiers ready for battle



From The American Revolution Institute website:
<https://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/video/year-in-revolution-1777-battle-of-saratoga/>

The **Year in Revolution: 1777 Battle of Saratoga** video chronicles how after attempting to divide the New England states from the Mid-Atlantic by marching down the Hudson River from Canada, British General John Burgoyne surrendered his army to General Horatio Gates. Considered a major if not the most significant turning point in the war, this victory at Saratoga, New York, helped convince French King Louis XVI to formally support the cause of American independence. Noted in the video is the role of Colonel Joseph Louis Cook, or Atiatonharongwen, who sided with the Americans during the Saratoga campaign, unlike most Mohawk warriors. Also featured are the efforts of Mary Ludwig Hayes, a.k.a. “Molly Pitcher.” Featured video topics were suggested by our national network of Master Teachers Seminar alumni.



In June 2014, Dr. Seefried was appointed by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to the World War I Centennial Commission, completing her decade as a commissioner in 2024. We at the RDVF know her work best through the annual commemoration of the WWI *Battle of Croix Rouge Farm*, a culmination of the years’ long work alongside Nimrod Frazer, James Butler and many others that made this memorial possible. *Photo by French photographer, Béatrice Dahm*

42nd Infantry Division headquarters celebrates 108 years of service while deployed

DVIDS/ Camp Arifjan, Kuwait 09.04.2025
Story by Capt. Stephanie Sylvain
New York National Guard



Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division commemorated their 108th birthday, September 5, 2025, Marking over a century of dedicated service to the nation.

Despite being deployed in support of Operation *Spartan Shield* (OSS) as part of Task Force *Spartan*, the Division took time to honor its rich history and the Soldiers who continue to uphold its legacy.

The celebration, organized by Lt. Col. Katie Schin, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion commander, and her staff, featured a full day of events.

The day began with a spirited two-mile victory run, followed by a luncheon at 1200 hours. The celebration culminated in an awards ceremony recognizing the outstanding contributions of soldiers within the unit and cake cutting.

A highlight of the ceremony was the reenlistment of 11 Soldiers, reaffirming their commitment to serve the Army for years to come.

Lt. Col. Schin presided over the oath of enlistment, underscoring the Division’s continued strength through the dedication of its personnel.

The 42nd Infantry Division’s origins date back to August 1917, when it was organized at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, following America’s entry into World War I.

Recognizing the potential strain of wartime losses on individual states, the government strategically assembled the Division from National Guard units representing 26 states and the District of Columbia.

Shortly after its formation, Col. Douglas MacArthur famously dubbed the unit the “Rainbow Division,” noting its diverse composition stretched “like a Rainbow from one end of America to the other.”

This moniker reflects the Division’s enduring spirit of unity and national representation.

Throughout its history, the 42nd ID has distinguished itself in both World Wars, enduring the trench warfare of World War I and bravely liberating the infamous Dachau concentration camp during World War II in 1945.

The Division’s commitment extends beyond overseas conflicts.

Following its return from World War II, the 42nd ID continued to serve domestically, responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

The “Rainbow” battalions played a critical role in the recovery and security operations following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center.

Today, the 42nd ID continues to serve, currently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation *Spartan Shield*.

Through OSS, Task Force *Spartan* maintains a vital U.S. military presence in Southwest Asia, strengthening defense relationships and building partner capacity.

Spc. Steven Diakite, a Signal Soldier with the 42nd ID, expressed hope for the future, stating, “I hope next year when we get home, that we will have the opportunity to make this a bigger celebration and bring friends and family for the 109th anniversary.

The 108th birthday celebration served as a powerful reminder of the 42nd Infantry Divisions enduring legacy of service, sacrifice and commitment to the defense of the nation.

An Editorial Correction and an Introduction



In our July 2025 issue of REVEILLE this editor reprinted a surname misspelling of Dachau concentration camp Liberator 2LT Quentin F. **Naumann (not Newman!)** Company H, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division. His daughter, Patricia “Pat” Naumann, a Life Member of the RDVF was present at the on-site commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp last spring 2025. Thank you, Pat, for giving us the opportunity to correctly introduce your father as Liberator; we honor your father’s life and service, always.

Photo of 2LT Naumann is provided by his family.

2025 RDVF RAINBOW SCHOLARS We congratulate the recipients of the RDVF Scholarship Awards!

MacArthur Award <i>Clare Frank</i>	5,000.
Stillman F. Sawyer Award <i>Lucia Flynn</i>	3,000.
Edward and Lillian Kaiser Award <i>Mason Garlich</i>	3,000.
The Major General Joseph J. Taluto Award <i>Cole Rautenberg</i>	2,250.
The News Corp – Robert T. Kennedy Award <i>Stephanie Clark</i>	2,250.
42 nd Infantry Division Association Award <i>Tyberius Hernandez</i>	2,250.
Lon and Colleen Peck Award <i>Sofia Poole</i>	2,250.

**Our 2026 season of application will be
March 1, 2026 to July 15, 2026
Please visit this <rainbowvets.org>
Page for updated eligibility information
and application download
<https://rainbowvets.org/scholarships/>**

LIVING A WWII RAINBOW TRAIL A son follows his father’s Rainbow Memories By Erin Faith Allen

When it comes to traveling through history with the intention of re-living it, sometimes it can be hard to put the emotional weight of the experience into words. This is one such story.



Tom Breen has just returned from a ten-day pilgrimage across Europe to honor the memory of his late father, Sgt. Vernon Breen. Guided by Rainbow Division historian Erin Faith Allen, the journey carried Tom from Strasbourg through Alsace into the villages of the Hardt Mountains assault, Würzburg, Fürth, Nuremberg, Munich, Dachau, and Vienna as he retraced the exact path his dad had traveled as part of H3B / 222.



The pilgrimage began on the banks of the Rhine in Strasbourg, where Vernon had first seen combat in December 1944. In 1969, when Tom was just eleven, Vernon had brought him to this same stretch of river and told him

how his unit had been baptized into combat and exchanged fire with German soldiers across the water.



Guided by firsthand accounts straight from the mouths of Vernon and the men in Vernon’s battalion, Tom and Erin searched for the exact

spot captured in one of those 1969 photographs. Rain soaked them as they combed the riverbank until they were able to match up the old stories, the 1969 photograph, and the modern landscape. Just as they finally found the location, they turned toward the water, and the sky split open to arc a massive rainbow over the Rhine.

For a moment, time collapsed: GIs and Germans, past and present, father and son. “We screamed and hugged,” Tom said. “It was as if my dad, and the whole Division, were letting us know they were right there with us on the opening of our journey.”

Moving into the small Alsatian villages, Tom and Erin were joined by local historians Materne Schaerlinger and Boris Suss, who led them in restored Army jeeps to Dauendorf, where Vernon’s company had established their command post during the brutal fighting of Operation Nordwind. The mayor greeted Tom with champagne and thanked him on behalf of the village for the liberation and the freedom they still hold dear.

In nearby Neubourg, Tom walked the exact ground where his father had nearly been killed. Vernon had often described

sprinting toward a crossroads to report on German movements. As he passed a cemetery, an 88-shell screamed past his head and hit a plaster wall just next to him. “If that wall had been made of stone,” Vernon always said, “I wouldn’t be here.”

Piecing together multiple firsthand accounts and official reports, Erin brought Tom to that very wall. The shrapnel pockmarks remain, carved into the side of the building. The story Tom had heard dozens of times was no longer a story, it was a living, breathing landmark of his family history.



In Würzburg, Tom visited the *Rathaus* where Vernon’s orders had been to locate the *Bürgermeister*. When Vernon entered the building in April 1945, the mayor had just taken his own life. Vernon said the blood was still pooling around his head.



Within hours of that gruesome discovery, Vernon learned that his closest friend, PFC Curtice Mathews, had been killed in the Würzburger Brewery when a grenade landed in his jeep. His promotion to sergeant came in the same breath as the news of Curtice’s death. “Being here, I can’t imagine what those few days were like for my dad,” Tom said softly. “So many big things happening all at once in such a short time.”



Earlier in the journey, Tom had visited Curt’s grave at St. Avold. At the Würzburger Brewery, still in operation today, Tom and Erin raised a beer to Curt, who Tom had grown up hearing about. “Since Curt was an only child, I can’t help but wonder if we’re the first people to visit these places in his honor,” Tom reflected.

The pilgrimage reached its most solemn point in Bavaria. On April 29, 1945, Vernon had stood guard at the Arbeit Macht Freigate at Dachau concentration camp and witnessed the infamous railcars of the Death Train. Tom spent the day walking the grounds at Dachau with Erin’s colleague Maximillian Lütgens of the Dachau Memorial, taking in the horrors the men of the Rainbow had faced on that day of liberation.



Traveling the next day to Vienna, Lütgens brought Tom and Erin to meet Dachau survivor Erich Finches. As Tom entered the room, Finches greeted him with pure emotion, still present after so many years: “I am grateful for your father. It is because of men like him that men like me survived and live free.”

Vienna was Vernon’s home during the occupation. Using photos from 1945 and 1969, the location was found, and Tom stood before the apartment house his father had lived in and photographed in 1945 and 1946, and where they had returned together in 1969. A third photograph, taken this summer, now joins the first two in a layered archive of memory captured in photos.



This wasn’t just a battlefield tour spanning 1,400 miles - and more than a dozen Rainbow cities. It was a living act of remembrance. At a time when the number of living WWII veterans dwindles, the pilgrimage underscores the power of walking old ground, keeping stories alive, and preserving a Rainbow lineage.

Though Vernon’s postwar life unfolded far from Europe’s battlefields, Tom’s journey ensured his wartime steps will never be forgotten.

About Erin:

Through careful preservation and piecing together of documents, investigative war historian Erin Faith Allen has helped over 350 families reconstruct the wartime histories of their loved ones. She is proud to have built one of the largest independent Rainbow Division archives in existence. www.fortitude-research.com All photos are from Erin Faith Allen and described in the paragraphs adjacent to them .

RAINBOW RIFLEMEN PART IX

By Robert “Bob” Spearing
Company G, 242nd Infantry Regiment,
42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division

December 10, 1944 – Marseille, France

At 10:15 a.m., our ship is finally moored port side to berth #9, Marseille, France. We are all below adjusting our packs and duffle bags preparing to disembark after fourteen long days at sea.

For some of us, it will be the first time that any solid food can be digested. Pfc. Tom Crosson and BAR man, Julian Kajawa, have managed to stay alive by being confined to the ship’s sickbay for the last five days.

All of my equipment is ready, and I’m about to sling my rifle when runner, Jerry Ford, appears with an order for me to report to the ship’s sickbay. He tells me that Lt. Collins will meet me there. When I ask what this is all about, he tells me that while I was on deck a few hours ago, Pfc. Carl McGahen, my squad ammunition bearer, had been stricken with an acute attack of appendicitis. He was now in sickbay being prepared for an ambulance ride to Marseille General Hospital.



Lt. Collins was already there when I arrived, talking to young McGahen who was trussed up to his neck in blankets on a metal stretcher. Sixteen-year-old Carl smiled at me with a fever-flushed face and said that he just wanted to make sure he got to say goodbye to me before being taken to the hospital. I was touched by this. I never realized that some of my younger charges (Paul Pederzani, squad assistant and automatic rifleman was only 17) looked upon me as a father image. I was not displeased with this expression of trust

and neither was Lt. Collins. He also had a very strong personal interest in all of the members of his platoon.

I told Carl to make sure he wrote to his parents as soon as he could and to drop a note to us also, when he felt able. We would all be wishing him well and looking forward to his return. (He did return, too, exactly 30 days later on Saturday, January 6, 1945 ... a date that none of us in Company G will ever forget.) *Photo is Pvt. Carl V. McGahen Co. G, 2nd Bn. 242nd Inf. Regt. 42nd Division Fall 1944.*

*[Editor: To catch up or review chapters of this exciting personal history in **Rainbow Riflemen**, you will find them all in Rainbow REVEILLE and RAINBOW TRAIL issues posted in alternate issues from the first chapter in REVEILLE April 2024; <https://rainbowvets.org/blog/> Our next installment will be in the January 2026 Rainbow REVEILLE.*

World War II Rainbow Division Deaths Reported since July 2025

JAMES, David, Jr. a mortarman with the 42nd
HOOD, Wallace, HQ 42d Cavalry Recon Troop
PETERSON, Floyd Peter "Pete" unit unreported

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC. *Contributions Received April 2025-October 2025*

- 100. Michel A. Natali in memory of SGT Taylor Parker
- 50. Patricia D'Aurora in memory of Andrew P. Senegal, 222nd Infantry
- 200. John J. Bobb in memory of John A. Bobb, Medic, 242nd Infantry
- 1000. 42ID Rainbow Division Association in memory of Carmine Sacco H2B, 222nd Infantry
- 25. Mayland Crosson in memory of Fern Martinson, RDVF Nat. Aux.
- 1000. Laura Lewis in memory of Charles W. Love
- 25. James H. Weisner for RDVF Operating Fund

RDVF WWII NATIONAL AUXILIARY DEATHS Reported since July 2025

Mary Lou McCahey, wife of
James B. McCahey HQ 42 Division
Opal Juday, wife of
George R. Juday Co. F, 222nd Inf. Regt.



Center photo, The Missing Man, or Fallen Comrade Table Display at the Saratoga 20 Year Rainbow Division Reunion

This display represents all those who should be remembered for their sacrifice during OIF III and Task Force Liberty. **NEVER FORGET!!**

SARATOGA 42nd DIVISION REUNION GWOT and OIFIII 20 Years Later Pages one and two photo captions

Photo One: (L-R) Paul Genereux, Mike Natali, Mike Burdick, Kevin Ivery, Jeff Proctor, Joe Taluto, Carl Pfeiffer, John Willsey, Pete Riley, Stacy Manni, Pat Chaisson, Michelle Lindsay

Photo Two: Lance Willsey, Mike Pickering, Pat Chaisson, Mark Walsh, Reggie Sanders

Photos Three and Four: displays of OIF III history

Photo five: MG(R) Joseph Taluto addressing the audience about the service of the 42d in OIF III.

Photo six: (l-r) MG(R) Harry Miller, RDVF Chairman MG(R) Gary Yapple, MG(R) Joe Taluto present Michael "Rod" Rodriguez, President and CEO of the GWOT Memorial Foundation with a \$5000 contribution towards the new Memorial.