

RAINBOW REVEILLE



Vol. XXXII

October, 1952

No. 2

A Great Year For Rainbow

AS THIS REVEILLE GOES TO PRESS, the Rainbow year in the various Chapters is getting into high gear. Early meetings are making plans for a year of enthusiastic activity.

I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER at the prospects for an outstanding Rainbow year. The Miami Reunion found Rainbow at a high point in its history. Membership was at a gratifying level, and Chapter activities were at a peak.

THIS YEAR IS OFF TO A GREAT START and gives every promise of exceeding last year's splendid showing. A multitude of Rainbow "Big Time Events" loom on the horizon.

IN CHICAGO PLANS ARE SHAPING UP for what we hope and expect will be one of the greatest Rainbow Reunions in the history of our Association. We are now in the organizing and planning stage, and in the next REVEILLE we will make a progress report.

THE PLEDGES OF SUPPORT and promises of increased membership which have come to me have been most heartening, and are deeply appreciated.

(Please turn to page 2)

RAINBOW "BIG TIME" EVENTS

LISTINGS FOR "BIG TIME EVENTS" SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY THE 20th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

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Vol. XXXII October, 1952

No. 2

**OFF THE HOOK**

by "Hook" Young
Chairman,
Membership Chairman

Headquarters, Hook's Task Force,
Independence, Mo., Sept. 18th, 1952.

Well, we put the show on the road yesterday exactly 2:00 p.m., CDT, and now with 500 miles, 16 restaurants, 27 comfort stations and the damn farm behind us, we are billeted for the night at the ole outfitting point for Santa Fe travellers, the birthplace of the Mormon Church -- and according to Touraide -- famous as the home of H. S. T. What the hell this has to do with some of the lousiest membership records you dim-wits have ever turned in, I don't know -- but maybe you can figure it out.

Anyway I had written Allen Gibbons for a report on the Chapters that had already sent in a respectable number of paid-up members -- and I very carefully got his reply and reports together in a folder -- and left the damn thing on the dining room table! I am pretty sure there were only two or three Chapters that had made any kind of a showing at all, and so help me the only one I remember positively is Leonard Hill's bunch. Seems to me they had already passed last year's mark. Under these circumstances the only thing I know to do is just to start in and raise hell with everyone. Now if some of you other Chapter Presidents and Secretaries have made good showings up to date -- WHY THE HELL AREN'T THEY BETTER? I know Allen didn't include any tribute to the wonderful records being turned in by New York, Chicago, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Alabama, Michigan, Texas, and Ruby Garrett. Say, I just wonder if Ruby's outfit is the same as Leonard Hill's? Okay, Ruby, if it is -- it's a damn poor showing for a Signal Outfit.

But the saddest case of all is one I hesitate to mention. I have always had a great deal of admiration for this giant among Chapters for its virility, its aggressiveness and its spirit. They still retained that sharp, authoritative crack the "swazancanz" had back in 1918. You remember -- cut loose with a few rounds any hour of the day or night, just for the hell of it. Over the years it had been my fortune to become well acquainted with a number of this Chicago outfit so that now I count them as friends rather than just acquaintances. Well, we're still friends, bub -- but you sure are tooting some

(Continued on page 7)

GREAT YEAR (Continued from page 1)

The heart of Rainbow is in its Chapters, and whatever success may be achieved by the Association is but the sum of the success of the individual Chapters. In turn, the success of the Chapter is the sum of the efforts of its Officers and membership. Because our Association is rich in loyal and enthusiastic members our Chapters are assured of the fruits of successful leadership.

It is especially gratifying to see so much evidence that World War II is beginning to produce so much of talented leadership and unstinted activity.

As the years pass we must depend more and more upon this youthful leadership. It can only develop through use. It behooves Rainbow to encourage and use the men of World War II who are showing such readiness to accept the responsibilities and obligations of Chapter activity.

They not only offer Rainbow its best assurance of undiminished growth and prosperity in the future; they are a vital part of Rainbow's present success.

--C. Edwin Johnson

A Great Adventure Begins

Thirty-five years ago, on October 18th, 1917, the Rainbow Division sailed for France. For the men of the Rainbow it was the Great Adventure. It would be difficult for the WWIIer to realize the spirit in which these young men of 1917 set forth for service in France. When WWII began in December of 1941, to the young men of America war was something which they had not yet experienced, but which they knew and understood in all of its stark reality. News reels, documentaries and dramatic films had depicted war for them so fully and so accurately that it was thoroughly grasped and understood.

In 1917 the case was vastly different. The grimness and brutality of war had been presented in the press, magazines and books, and the silent films had tried to depict its realities. But the presentation was not too effective; to the average young American, and certainly to the young Rainbower, war was remote to his understanding. He pictured it as a tremendous adventure, a dangerous and daring adventure, but one with thrills and a tinge of romance to it.

And most of these young men had experienced in their lives but little of adventure -- and probably little of extensive travel. How many of them had often reflected, with sharp unhappiness, "Nothing exciting, nothing interesting, is ever going to happen to me!"

Europe itself was remote to them. Few save the wealthy had the opportunity to cross the ocean. To see Europe, France -- to the average young Rainbower had been an ambition, a dream little likely to be realized.

And so as the men of the Rainbow sailed for France and the War, their mood was one of exhilaration rather than apprehension. Few shrank from the dangers of a war as remote from their understanding as it was in space. The danger from submarines was more evident and real as the convoy plunged thru the Atlantic, but to these young men the U-Boat menace did little more than add zest to this thrilling experience.

After a dozen days at sea the convoy pulled up the mouth of the Loire and docked at St. Nazaire. France at last! This was the mood of the men.

As the men were drinking in their first glimpses of a new land and a new people, events of great import to the Division were making their impact upon the Headquarters staff. Colonel Douglas MacArthur, General Mann's Chief of Staff, was met at St. Nazaire by a close friend, then serving at AEF Headquarters, who disclosed to him that General Pershing was determined to break up the Rainbow as a combat division, and use it as a "replacement" division.

(Continued on page 6)



CALIFORNIA Memories of the Miami

Reunion: The "welcoming committee" headed by Jim Rolfe missing the guest they came to welcome. These Floridians should know that Californians travel first class and not go looking for them in the day coaches of a train . . . Jim Barney refunding our taxi fare because we missed the Chrysler sent to "carry" us to the hotel from the railroad station . . . The great pleasure of meeting old friends which is the reason Rainbowers travel from all parts of the country to attend the Reunions . . . "Prexy" Bill Butts conducting the meetings in a snappy and businesslike manner . . . We having the honor of giving the response to the welcoming address in behalf of Rainbow, an honor deeply appreciated and which brought back memories of the Reunion in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1924 when we also had that honor . . . Leo "Bob Hope" Moquin and his Audit Report, or Penny, Penny, who got the Penny? . . . Our "special" California table at the banquet with two uniformed Legionnaires* as honor guards . . . Envious eyes being cast our way which caused Jim Barney to usher us up to the head table for fear others would demand some of that "super service" . . . The inspiring talk made by Karl Pulvermuller at the banquet . . . President-elect Ed Johnson pinch hitting for Colonel J. Monroe Johnson, who was unable to be present, as Master of Ceremonies for the Champagne Hour, and doing a good job of it . . . And thus with poignant memories of another Reunion . . . 'Til we meet again.

Those attending the Reunion from California were Warner, Katherine and Robert Grassell, and Leo and Cecile

*Ed Note: That ain't the way we heard it.

Glaser.

The newly elected President of the Los Angeles Chapter is Norman Sogn, 222nd Infantry. Norm was recently discharged from the 40th Division with the rank of Captain, after having been on active duty for almost two years, part of this time in Japan.

Bill Williamson is still in the hospital, and making a game fight of it. John Hoffman has improved enough so that he could return home from the hospital.

Taps: Duffy Eithier, 151st F. A., formerly of Minneapolis, Minn., passed away at the Vets Hospital, West Los Angeles, on August 19th. Burial was at the Veterans National Cemetery, West L. A.

Harry W. Mitchell, Co. F, 117th Engineers, passed away at his home in Malibu Beach on August 27th.

John W. Kelley, Co. M, 168th Inf., formerly of Detroit, Michigan, passed away at the Vets Hospital, West L. A., September 9th.

" . . . to keep alive the memory of our honored dead . . . "

--Warner Grassell

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G. COMPANY OF 222nd RECRUITING

The Veterans of Co. G Chapter held their first annual Reunion in Greenfield, Ohio, August 10th and 11th. The theme of the Reunion was their determination to get all former members of G company into their organization, and to hold fast to them. Every man who served with G, 222nd, is urged to communicate with:

Bob Kubik
801 Jackson
Rushville, Indiana.

---o---

NEW YORK The Father Duffy Chapter extends hearty greetings to our new National President, Ed Johnson, and to his able staff, and assures him



ANNUAL BANQUET AND CHAMPAGNE HOUR, JULY 14, 1952, MIAMI, FLORIDA

that he will get our active support during this new Rainbow year --- which should be one of our greatest.

We expect a tough fight to edge the Illinois Chapter out of the title it claims of being the "World's Greatest Chapter", what with the new President a member of that Chapter and the 1953 Reunion in Chicago. But we will play fair, and here and now we will warn Illinois not to be overconfident.

Our Open House Night at the Regimental Armory on August 26th during the Legion convention was a great success. We were delighted to have so many Rainbrowsers from other states. Many old friends had a chance to "chew the fat" over the foaming beakers of brew.

Our new President, Bob Morrison, who was National Vice President last year, has activities in full swing and our membership is greater now than it was at this time last year.

We will hold an Armistice Party on November 10th, our Auxiliary is staging a big Luncheon and Bridge at LaGuardia Field, a number of Company Dinners are being planned, and the Rainbow spirit is high.

Your scribe, (and Editor of the Rainbow Barrage), a New Yorker who served with the 167th Infantry, extends his personal regards to Ed Johnson of the 167th Infantry. You are on the mailing list, Ed.

Our meetings are held at the Armory on the second Friday of each month. Any Rainbrowser visiting New York will be most heartily welcomed if they can attend and join us in refreshments afterwards.

--Duncan Campbell

---o---

Judging by the increasing waistlines seen at the Miami Reunion, it would seem that Old Soldiers never diet.

---o---

OKLAHOMA The new Rainbow year got off to a good start with a dinner in the home of Justice and Mrs. Ben Arnold, in Oklahoma City. Ben has been ailing for some time, and it was fine of them to have us out under these conditions. The September party on the thirteenth was given by Jim and Elsie Brill, with Margaret Crowley assisting, and was a splendid affair. Walker Juhan and Earl Glass, recently returned from service in Korea, were honored at the affair. A stag party will be held some time this Fall, with Jack Munday in charge of the arrangements. Bill and Genevieve Bertram have moved here from Sham-

rock, Texas, and have opened a flower and gift shop at 1943 N. W. 8th Street. Rainbrowsers hereabouts please take note. Regret to report the passing of the father of Clarence Stephenson. Bill Lake is ill, at his home. Mel Hall has improved to the point where he can be taken out in the car. Hope to have him with us this year. The Harold Laepplies are proud parents of a baby boy. The ladies report great success with a rummage sale with another in prospect for next Spring. Frances and I attended the Nebraska State Reunion in Lincoln, where as usual we greatly enjoyed ourselves. With Lillian Buterbaugh and her committee in charge, the Dinner and program were as fine as I have ever experienced in Rainbow. The case of the "Looted Lingerie" came up for its usual attention. Like myself the joke is growing old. How about letting the whole thing drop? Herb James reports tough going in membership and attendance at Omaha. You men over there should get behind Herb and keep the Chapter on its usual fine level. Glad to see the Paul Strands, Lloyd Wrights, the Mike Poteets, the Homer Cardners and many other Rainbow friends. Hope some of them get down this way once in a while.

--Lawrence G. Wood

---o---

ALABAMA A gallant and faithful friend found the end of the Rainbow when Alabama's beloved Borden Burr died, at 76, on August 4th. He was with a YMCA unit attached to the Division, and has been a loyal member of our Chapter ever since. He was Chairman of Finance of the 1951 Reunion. He was loved, and is mourned by every Rainbrowser who had the privilege of knowing him.

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A GREAT ADVENTURE BEGINS

(Continued from page 3)

To understand how and why General Pershing could have reached such a decision it is necessary to understand that there was a tendency in the regular army to distrust and fear the National Guard, (usually described as the "Gee dee militiamen.") The West Pointers believed (with at least a shadow of justice) that there was a flavor of politics about a Guard division identified with a State; the Army felt that behind such a State unit might be discerned the shadow of a pair of Senators. General Pershing probably feared that the Rainbow, coming from 26 States and the District of Columbia, might have behind it the spectre of 52 Senators! And he wanted no part of a political Division.

This was the news which met the Rainbow Division upon its arrival, and this was the situation which confronted General Mann and his Chief of Staff. (General Mann, then many years over retirement age, also learned that he would be promptly relieved of his Command and retired to civilian life.)

It was Colonel MacArthur who met this threat to the Division which had been born of his dreams and which held so many of his hopes. He called together the various Regimental Commanders and outlined to them what he had heard. "We are accused of being a 'political' division," he said in substance, "Let us be one just long enough to maintain our existence as a combat division. Let each one of you cable at once to your Senators and urge that they prevent this misguided action".

The results flowing from this plan were immediate and successful. The Secretary of War, Mr. Newton Baker, promptly cabled to General Pershing that on no account was the Rainbow Division to be used other than as a combat division. Thus was the Rainbow saved to play its glorious part in the history of World War I. It is interesting to note, in this connection, that the 41st Division, a splendid National Guard Division organized in Oregon and Washington States, was actually broken up into a replacement division instead of the 42nd.

Colonel MacArthur's action saved General Pershing from making a tragic error. The Rainbow Division was known to be made up of carefully selected units, each with many months of field training in the Federal Service on the Mexican Border. These units were selected on the basis of their record during this service. If these units had not been considered by General Pershing to be worthy of anything more than to be broken up for their "manpower" content, what evaluation would have been placed upon them by our Allies, and by our enemies? And if our hand-picked National Guard regiments were rated no higher than as so much raw manpower, would any higher valuation have been placed upon our remaining National Guard units? Or still less upon units of hastily organized and trained National Army units? By turning "thumbs down" upon the Rainbow

Division General Pershing would have conceded, to friend and enemy, that he held America's civilian soldiers but lightly.

A scant four months later the Rainbow Division was put to the test and demonstrated that American civilian soldiers could be rated with the best fighting troops in Europe. Soon thereafter other American units confirmed this demonstration. The effect was to enable the Allied Supreme Commander, Marshal Foch, to make a more immediate use of the ever growing stream of American troops landing in France. If misgivings about the quality of these troops had caused Foch to hesitate about their combat use, it is entirely conceivable that when the supreme crisis came, in July, the balance of manpower in the combat areas might have been in favor of the German forces.

It is easy to suppose that because the Allied victory was so decisive and sweeping when it did come, that the result had not been in doubt. But the fact is that if the Germans had overwhelmed the Allied lines in July and swept on to Paris, cutting off the French from the British on their north, it is entirely credible to suppose that France might have collapsed, as they had nearly done in 1917, and as they did in 1940; and that the Germans might have emerged from the war as the victors instead of the vanquished.

--hbr

OFF THE HOOK (Continued from page 2)

sour notes on that membership horn. For Pete's sake what's happening to you birds? Don't tell me that Joe Bengé, Barre, Syd, Jack Griffith, Tom Finnegan, Frank Gould, Doc Foley and the rest of you old wrecks have gone panty-waist and are still following that old, out-dated system of ASKING them to pay dues. Dammit, TELL 'EM!! Såndbag 'em, blackmail 'em, take it away from 'em -- nuts! I don't care HOW you get it, but GET IT. From all I have heard, you light artillerymen have two men there who've done more to make your Chapter GREAT than any other two men. Now both of them are tied up with big jobs -- one as National President of Rainbow and the other as President of the Chicago Gas and Light Company. Ed Johnson and Eskil Bjork. If you odd balls really want to show your appreciation to these two men who have done so much for your Chapter, then shake the lead out of your britches and turn in a paid-up membership this year that will make them proud of you. There isn't anything you could do that they would appreciate more. Make

this an "Ed and Eskil Year". Do this and automatically you make those New York Irishmen keep their traps shut. Think what that's worth.

Rodier says, "For Gosh sakes, Hook turn it off". Be broadcasting same time next month. Stay tuned in and find out if Little Nell pays off the mortgage or the damn place is foreclosed. Come on, now, make papa proud of you.

--Hook the Chair

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Rainbow Year 1952 - 1953

(Continuation of list in September issue.)

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WYOMING

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East 19th Street, Cheyenne.

R. ALLEN GIBBONS, National Secretary, Rainbow Division Veterans,
P. O. Box 342, Roanoke 3, Va.

Dear Allen: I am proud of being a Veteran of the Rainbow Division.

I served with the
(Name of Unit in 42nd Division)
and wish to join our Association. I enclose \$2.



Emory W. McIntosh,
5051 1st St., NW,
Washington, D. C.

