



**42** RAINBOW DIVISION  
Veterans Memorial Foundation

# REVEILLE

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NO. 1

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## World War II Rainbow Division veterans pass the torch to current generation

by Spc. Rachel Sanzo, 42nd ID PAO

ALBANY, N.Y. --- Rainbow Soldiers past and present, young and old, gathered to share stories and military experiences with one another at their 93rd Annual Reunion hosted by the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation.

42nd Infantry Division veterans and families from all across the country assembled at Hotel Albany to mingle, reminisce, and tour the historic city here, July 11-14, 2012. What had traditionally been an event attended by World War II era veterans and their families, the annual reunion this year brought in a broader audience by holding a special reception for 42nd veterans who composed Task Force Liberty in Iraq. The Task Force Liberty reception marked the first official gathering of Iraq war veterans as part of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation. The event allowed current Soldiers to meet Foundation members and join the Foundation themselves, helping secure the future of the Foundation in the hands of younger Soldiers who will be able to carry on the legacy of the Rainbow for years to come.

"This year's reunion marks the beginning of a new generation of leadership ready to move our Foundation forward," said retired Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, the Chairman of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation. "This new leadership has been and will continue to be guided by those World War II era veterans and their families."

In addition to being chairman of the Foundation, Taluto was the former Adjutant General of the New York National Guard and past commander of the 42nd Infantry Division during their deployment to Iraq in 2005. Taluto is one of the first Foundation members to represent the current Rainbow era and serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving history for future generations.

"I am proud to report that many new officers and committee chairpersons have stepped up to take responsibility and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," said Taluto. "The new 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." Reunion events included a visit to the historic New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, an Aqua Duck tour highlighting landmarks along downtown Albany, and a memorial service held at the 42nd ID HQ in



## 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

## Chairman's Message

Hello, Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation members! By all accounts our 2012 annual reunion in Albany was a huge success. We are off and running as the new leadership has gotten its marching orders to begin the work of moving the Foundation forward.

Our Priority Projects are to:

**1 CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR WEBSITE.** Soon we will have the member center, store and other new features up and running. The details of our partnership with Excelsior College are now provided on the website. Simply click on the Excelsior logo at the bottom of the Homepage. Hopefully we will have our member login established prior to the end of the year so that you can access Foundation business matters and read the RAINBOW REVEILLE online! Please check into the website often and see the new features as they evolve.

**2 PURSUE A NEW RAINBOW DIVISION MEMORIAL AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NYC.** Very soon I will make a trip to NYC to meet with the appropriate people to begin a process that will establish a memorial to honor those Rainbow Soldiers that responded on 9/11 and then went on to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**3 REVISE OUR BY-LAWS.** We are also very busy revising our Foundation By-Laws in order to make them more concise and contemporary. Once completed, the new By-Laws will greatly improve our efficiency in conducting Foundation business and will enhance our ability to raise money for our Memorial and Scholarship programs.

We still have not addressed a Mid-Year or Annual Reunion time and place but will in the very near future.

**Joe Taluto, RDVMF Chairman**



Troy commemorating fallen Rainbow Soldiers.

"We are eager to see the rich history of the 42nd available in close proximity of the reunion," said Linda Owen, the 42nd Rainbow Division National Auxiliary President. "It is especially gratifying being able to see the Rainbow carrying on the traditions and leadership to new heights."

## A Letter of Appreciation –

"I was delighted to have the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division veterans and their families on my duckboat last week. It was an honor and a privilege to be the tour guide for such a distinguished group, and my heart fills with pride whenever I have men and women aboard who have served our country with selflessness and honor. They were lots of fun, and they joined in wholeheartedly in the spirit of the tour...a most wonderful group who made my job most enjoyable. God bless you all. Sincerely, Anastasia (Tracy) Tunny



**Reunion photos from Troy Armory and Duck Tour are by NY National Guard**

**Cutoff date October 15, 2012 for November 2012 issue.**

## RAINBOW REVEILLE

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**Prayer is one of the most powerful spiritual forces one can exert on behalf of oneself or another. To enter into prayer is to commune with the divine in the spirit in which we were created.**

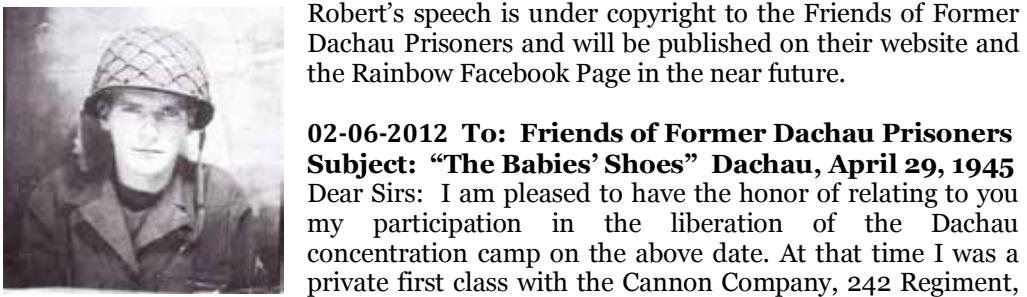
### Eric W. Olsen, RDVMF Chaplain

Gracious and ever living God, it is you alone that know our days, our steps and our hearts. You alone are the author and builder of all we know and survey. We thank you for this gift of life and the ability to live it in a country that allows us to pursue our dreams. We are humbly sorry, for all too often we take the gifts you give us for granted, and pray that with your guidance we might be more attentive to the riches and blessings we receive. We humbly ask that you bless our nation as it faces its many challenges, and that you use us to do the good works to strengthen her as the strong beacon of freedom and liberty our world needs. May our vigilance against the evils of tyranny, arrogance, greed and avarice be rewarded in the lives of our future generations, and may we see the fruits of our labor be bountiful.  
To you O Lord we give all Honor and Glory in your Holy Name we Pray. **Amen**

### ROBERT B. TURPIN'S MEMORY OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU –

The second in a series of speeches from 42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWII veterans requested by the "Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners", The Netherlands. Our shared project is continuing. Please contact Frank Burns for further information: (206) 527-0987

Robert's speech is under copyright to the Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners and will be published on their website and the Rainbow Facebook Page in the near future.



### 02-06-2012 To: Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners

### Subject: "The Babies' Shoes" Dachau, April 29, 1945

Dear Sirs: I am pleased to have the honor of relating to you my participation in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp on the above date. At that time I was a private first class with the Cannon Company, 242 Regiment,

42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. **We arrived at the camp in the early afternoon.** Shortly after arriving, our company commander requested that we immediately go to an area where prisoners were being held. Some of our unit had already opened the gate. The prisoners who could walk out were in their grey and black uniforms and were roaming the town looking for food or clothing. We were ordered to leave them alone. At that time I was ordered to guard a pile of clothing about the size of a small house. While standing guard, I reached down and picked up a pair of white baby shoes that were on the pile of clothing. They had shoelaces and were the high top construction. They were about the size of what a 2 year old baby would wear. I was a 22 year old soldier, and we had been in continuous combat since shortly after landing in Marseille, France. I could have been somewhat immune to what was taking place, and why the baby shoes were on the ground. There was no information passed down to our company as to the reason for the existence of the camp. We left the area after 2 days to complete our mission to defeat Germany. **In 1989, 45 years later, my wife and I traveled to Europe and to travel the route of the 42<sup>nd</sup> division and to visit Dachau.** Shortly after entering the gate and looking at the wall and ovens, I was overcome with tears. My wife left me alone until I could regain my thoughts. She then led me out of the camp. Looking back at this visit, it appears that seeing again what a horrible event had occurred and my recollection of the baby shoes, was just too much for a "battle hardened soldier." After leaving the service, I finished college and received a Mechanical Engineering Degree. The Robert Turpin Company was established after graduation and has been in existence for over 45 years. **The Dachau period could somewhat be related to what is happening today.** The 1940s happened because the population involved in Germany did not have the opportunity to revolt against the actions of the dictators until it was too late. Their plight was not truly known until the United States and allies were involved. The present new "Dachau" period has allowed the oppressed populations to "Take up Arms" and assert their demands for freedom and self-esteem, with the help of the United States. But there are so many of these events taking place, the United States does not now have unlimited resources to help. It is important to realize that the oppression of people by ruthless dictators will never again be tolerated. History has already made that decision. I hope this will help in your history project.

Your friend,

**Private First Class Robert B. Turpin**

**Cannon Company 242 Regiment 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.**

**3202 Haley Point Drive Saint Augustine, FL 32084-3091**



**Morris "Ike" Eisenstein, H-222,** present at KZ Dachau 29 April 1945, reminds us to read our Division book, Dachau 29 April 1945/The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs, edited by Sam Dann, 1998, Texas University Press, for details of the liberation on that day. He writes, "Dear Rainbow Buddy, if you are ever in Del Ray, FL, call me please and have lunch with me!!! Ike."

6069 Via Diana DelRay Beach, FL 33484 (561)498-1410

#### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS/Chairmen (RDVA and RDVMF) and NATIONAL AUXILIARY Present In ALBANY, NY July 2012



Left to right (standing) - Harold Melinek, Richard Tisch, Dee R. Eberhart, James R. "Pete" Pettus, John R. Walker, Earnest E. Owen, (sitting) - Vassil "Rube" Evanoff, Ivan Wallace, Rev. Robert F. "Bob" Weiss, S.J.; (standing far right, MSG Peter K. Towse, 42Div P.A.O.)



Left to right (standing) - Grace Walker, Myrtle Wallace, Delores Kallaher, MAJ Ben Tupper (42Div PAO), Linda Owen (sitting) Barbara C. Eberhart, Marjorie Eaton, Joanne Dart

#### 242<sup>nd</sup> CHAPTER NOTICE

On July 13, 2012 at the 242<sup>nd</sup> Chapter Meeting in Albany, NY, Chapter members voted unanimously that in accordance with the 242<sup>nd</sup> Chapter Constitution & ByLaws, the 242<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. shall be officially disbanded as of 4 September, 2012, and further all unencumbered funds of the Chapter be disbursed to the RDV Memorial Foundation's Scholarship Operating Fund.

**Joe Dorsey, Chapter President**

#### OUR RAINBOW SCHOLARS

**Patti Hughes, Rainbow Scholarship Committee Chairman with MSG Peter K. Towse, 42<sup>nd</sup> Div PAO and RDVMF official photographer.**

Our congratulations to the 2012 Rainbow Scholarship recipients –

#### \$750.00 Scholarships were awarded

**to:** Alan Ballard, Jimmy Bedgood, Kary Bennett, Christopher Casciotti, Brett Edwards, Bradley Foertsch, Samantha McCoy, Shannon Norris, Benjamin Pettus, Jon Pipas, Kayla Pipas, Micha Rodman, Garrett Scott, Rebekah Troutman and Daniel Walker.

**Stillman F. Sawyer Award** (1,000.) to McKinzie Cottrell; **Ted Simonson Award** (1,000.) to Michelle Girardot

**42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Award** (1,000.) to Nicole Hoerold; **Walter and Virginia Duhacsek Award** (1,000.) to Caitlin Koenig;

**Edward and Lillian Kaiser Award** (1,000.) to Michael McLean; **Theodore "Ted" Johnson Award** (1,000.) to Andrew Owen

**A letter of thanks from Garrett Scott, grandson of Forest Scott, 392<sup>nd</sup> F.A. Bn, Btry C –**

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Scholarship Committee, and the Board of Trustees for your generosity in funding the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Scholarship to me. I am highly honored to be the recipient of this award. I will begin classes on August 27, 2012 at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Waco in course studies for Aviation Maintenance Technology. The award of this scholarship will help me greatly with the many college expenses I will have. Receiving this scholarship motivates me to maintain my GPA and complete my degree. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my chosen career field of Aviation Maintenance. I thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals."



**From Shannon E. Suggs, MAJ, IN, AL ARNG 226 MEB, S1 Ladies and Gentlemen, Please pass this information [re troop deployment of 1/167<sup>th</sup> Alabama National Guard] along to all family and friends of the Battalion. Please keep these Soldiers and their Families in your prayers.**

A deployment ceremony was held at Parade Field, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Hattiesburg, MS, on Sunday 5 August 2012, as the historic unit, (4<sup>th</sup> Alabama) Alabama National Guard's 1/167 Infantry Battalion heads to Afghanistan for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In the past year, the 167<sup>th</sup> (Fourth Alabama) was honored in France at the Croix Rouge Farm statue dedication and ceremonies; and on Memorial Day 2012 at the Rainbow Division viaduct in Birmingham, AL where the monuments to the WWI participation of the unit had been updated.

#### NATIONAL VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Birmingham, AL NOVEMBER 10,11,12 (SAT. - MON.) COURTYARD MARRIOTT RESERVATIONS DESK 800-393-7928.

"Rainbow veterans" hotel rate is \$89./+tax

TICKETS/person \$55. VAN/person is \$20. Total = \$75.00/person  
Make checks payable to facilitator John Wallace and mail to him at

603 Warwick Rd Homewood, AL 35209-4425

AGENDA – Sat. Nov. 10 - Dinner Out, barbecue at Jim 'N Nick's Sun. Nov. 11 - breakfast at The Egg and I; Tour to be determined; Ceremony at the newly updated Rainbow Memorial on the Bridge; AWARDS DINNER at 7:00 PM

Mon. Nov 12 - PEACE LUNCHEON at 11:00 AM, PARADE to follow.  
For further information contact Earnie Owen (918)258-1394



The Rainbow Division has trained thousands of men for war and with equal energy we now turn to training men for peace. Our job did not end when the enemy surrendered. We owe it to the men of this division to give them every opportunity to equip themselves with the skills and the training they will need when they return to civilian life. The men of the Rainbow fought well for their Country, and they must now be given the chance to study and to learn so they may aid in guiding that Country through years of peace and prosperity.

Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

## RAINBOW UNIVERSITY

RAINBOW UNIVERSITY will extend to the potential civilian leaders who are now members of the 42d Infantry Division the opportunity to resume or continue training in their civilian careers without delay by offering them more advanced academic and vocational training than is possible in the Unit School.

It is the first university to be organized within a division in the European Theater.

The University is divided into three departments: Science, Liberal Arts, and Technological.

The faculty members have been chosen from the Division after a careful screening of over 300 applicants. The best qualified men, based on civilian rather than military experience, were selected. Most of them have served as professors in a number of leading colleges and universities.

Ample use is made of the numerous visual aids prepared by the University's own Training Aid Shop. These graphs, charts, and scale models add greatly to the quality of instruction offered to the students attending the University.

RAINBOW UNIVERSITY is located in five modern buildings in Zell am See, Austria on the shores of a picturesque lake, set amongst majestic mountain peaks of the High Tauern Alps.

A student's tour of duty at the University is designed to give him a well-balanced two-month course of study and recreation comparable to one college semester. Athletic and recreational facilities available include swimming, tennis, football, skiing, mountain climbing.



This Rainbow University history connection is provided courtesy of Mr. George A. Cramer, K-232, who was graduated from this course of study in November 1945. An electronic copy of this 16-page booklet is available upon request from the REVEILLE editor, Suellen McDaniel, (828) 464-1466 [Jmac1400@aol.com](mailto:Jmac1400@aol.com)

### RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS AND FAMILIES ALL ARE WELCOME!!

#### Texas Chapter

Meets September through May on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month except November and December, when due to the holidays, meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. TIME AND PLACE:  
11:30 A.M., Luby's Cafeteria on Midway Road just north of LBJ Freeway, DALLAS. Margie Quintal (214)321-9139

#### Eastern Region

October 10-11-12, Ocean City, New Jersey at the Port-O-Call Hotel. For Rainbow reservations call the hotel at (800) 334-4546 or (609) 399-8812. [www.PortOCallHotel.com](http://www.PortOCallHotel.com)  
For question, please call

**Frank Dippo (617)969-6394**

**Harold Melinek (908)604-9181**

#### RDV Pacific NW Chapter

October 19 – 21 at the Towne-Place Suites Marriott-South Center, Kent, WA (Seattle Area), tel. (253)796-6000, located 2 miles east of the SeaTac Airport. Please call early for your reservations and indicate that you are with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Veterans for the group rate of \$99. + tax per night. We hope that all Rainbow Division Veterans and family members who can attend will join us.  
**Frank Burns (206)909-0717**

#### CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Sunday December 2, 2012

Holiday Brunch at the Embassy Suite Hotel in Downey, CA  
**David and Rita Cohen (805) 383-6695**



Ranked by Military Times Edge as a "Best for Vets" college, Excelsior is the highest ranked fully online college.

<sup>1</sup>Earned the 2010-2011 Innovation Award from the Center for Transforming Student Services (CENTSS).

#### Rainbow Division Veteran Memorial Foundation

and

#### Excelsior College

have partnered to offer RDVMF members, spouses, or domestic partners, preferred pricing on tuition and fees.

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Services	Partnership Rates	Standard Rates	Purpose
Application (one time)	\$80	\$80	Application processing and student record establishment fees are waived* upon receiving a courtesy preliminary review. <small>*Does not include nursing degrees or certificates.</small>
Enrollment Fee (one time)	\$130	\$395	Official evaluation of transferred credits, academic advisement and academic program planning for first year. The enrollment fee reverts to the standard rate if student does not complete a minimum of twelve (12) Excelsior College course credits prior to completion of their degree.
Tuition (per credit)	\$330	\$390	Participation in academic coursework.
Student Services Annual Fee (paid on an annual basis with the first annual fee charged one year after enrollment)	\$0 Provided 6 Excelsior course credits taken in one year	\$440	Library services, academic advising, and academic program planning. No Student Services Annual Fee will be charged provided student completes a minimum of six (6) Excelsior College course credits within the one-year period. If the student does not complete six (6) Excelsior College course credits within the one-year period, the Student Service Annual Fee will be \$225 for the subsequent year.
Graduation Fee (one time)	\$130 Provided 12 Excelsior course credits taken prior to degree completion	\$495	Final review and processing of student files for conferring of degree and issuance of diploma. The Graduation Fee reverts to the Standard Rate if the student does not complete a minimum of twelve (12) Excelsior College course credits prior to completion of their degree program. In the event the Graduation Fee reverts to the Standard Rate, this fee will be reduced by \$15 per academic credit for each undergraduate Excelsior College course successfully completed. This fee reduction does not apply to academic credits transferred to Excelsior College.

military training programs. Excelsior College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. From press release issued by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Office of Public Affairs (PAO); please go to <rainbowvets.org> for more comprehensive information.

#### Education agreement signing ceremony between Excelsior College and the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. Albany, NY July 14, 2012



Left - MG Joe Taluto, RDVMF Chairman; Right - Excelsior College President, John F. Ebersole; Center - MG Steven Wickstrom, Commander, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division; assembled behind them are members and veterans of the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division Photo by Tim Remple

**ALBANY, NY (July 14, 2012)** – Two nonprofit organizations with long histories of meeting the needs of veterans and their families have joined forces to enhance college degree opportunities for members, veterans and supporters of the famed 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Rainbow) Division. The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation and Excelsior College have entered into an agreement that will benefit members, veterans and supporters of the Rainbow Division, including spouses and domestic partners. All will be eligible for reduced tuition and fees when pursuing undergraduate degrees offered by the college. These lower costs, combined with Excelsior's transfer credit policies, will bring the achievement of a college degree closer to many. The agreement was signed by officials of the college and the foundation at a ceremony during the 2012 annual reunion of the Rainbow Division held at the Hotel Albany in downtown Albany, NY. "Throughout its more than 40 year history, one of Excelsior's top priorities has been serving the needs of the men and women of America's military," said **Excelsior College President John F. Ebersole**. "We believe we have an obligation to support those who protect and serve our nation in so many ways. By providing reduced tuition and fees through this agreement, we hope to enable the members of the Rainbow Division, their loved ones and supporters, to earn the educational credentials they need to succeed in their chosen careers." "The foundation's roots go back nearly a century ago to World War I and an essential element in its continuing mission is to commemorate the deeds, sacrifices and traditions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division," said **Major General Joseph J. Taluto (Ret.), chairman of the Foundation**. "It is quite fitting that we further this mission by providing a means for those who have served their nation so honorably, and those who support them, to earn the educational credentials necessary to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

#### About Excelsior College

Excelsior College <http://www.excelsior.edu> is a regionally accredited, nonprofit distance learning institution that focuses on removing obstacles to the educational goals of adult learners. Founded in 1971 and located in Albany, NY, Excelsior is a proven leader in the assessment and validation of student knowledge. It offers more efficient and affordable access to degree completion through multiple avenues: its own online courses and college-level proficiency examinations, and the acceptance in transfer of credit from other colleges and universities as well as recognized corporate and

## WARTIME MEMORIES (Part Five)

by JAMES I. MILLER Co. F, 242nd Inf. Regt., 42D Division



**[HATTEN, France]** Our battalion commander, whose name was Major Reynolds, told us to form into groups of two or three and work our way out of town and go back to **Rittershoffen**. Jackson, Morgan and I took off together. We couldn't go out on the street because the tank had that part covered and we couldn't go through the backyards because the Germans were out in the field. We went through the walls of the houses. We would just go to a shed

or something and kick out a couple of boards and make a hole and run to the next place and make a hole and we went through the buildings that way. We finally got to the edge of town and now we have to make it back to Rittershoffen, which is probably a good mile away. **In the fields to our right there were four or five of our tanks.**

They had finally come up to support us, just a bit late. The Germans started shooting artillery at them. They weren't too accurate because some of it was landing on the road where we were. I jumped into a ditch as these artillery shells came in. A big fragment, it must have been at least six inches long, came through the air and smacked into the ditch, right next to me! We decided that moving down the road was not a good idea. We ran directly out into the field on our left for about 100 yards and then continued to move toward Rittershoffen. **We came to a little house out in the middle of the field. It had a bed in it and a kitchen and stuff like that, and when we got there here are some guys from the 36th Division.**

They let us stay there because we didn't want to keep moving in the dark. These men were an outpost for their outfit. That evening they received some hot chow but we didn't get any since there was only enough for three men on outpost duty. We hadn't eaten for at least two days. We went without supper that night. The next morning we continued on our journey and finally got back to Rittershoffen but no one from Company F was there so we continued down the road to the next village, Niederbetschdorf. **When we got back to Niederbetschdorf there were a lot of troops there, including regimental headquarters, and a lot of soldiers in the houses around the fires.**

The officers started reorganizing and they couldn't find each company. To solve the problem, everyone was ordered out into the street. We were divided into three groups, named X, Y and Z. Morgan and I wound up in Company X. We marched out of town. I noticed cement fortifications and realized that these were a part of the Maginot Line, built before World War II as a defense against the Germans. The Germans had a similar defense on their side of the Rhine River. It was the Siegfried Line. **As we were passing on the big bunkers, Morgan and I decided we didn't want to fight in a company called X.** We didn't even know the sergeants. We thought maybe Company F was still back in town. We decided to lag behind and then go back to town. That's what we did. We lagged behind and all of a sudden we went by this great big bunker and jumped into the door and the rest of the guys marched on. So we turned around and went back to Niederbetschdorf. Just as we came into town, we found the remainder of Company F. They were really surprised to see us because we were listed as missing in action for two or three days. They thought we were killed in the retreat from Hatten. There weren't that many guys left in Company F. There must have been about 30 of us, not very many out of 182.

**About this time we were ordered to prepare to defend Niederbetschdorf.** Someone had dug a row of foxholes just outside of town and it was our job to occupy them. Our company was divided and half of us went to the foxholes and half went into some houses where they could get warm, eat some warmed rations and maybe get a little sleep. While I was on foxhole duty I began to feel sorry for myself. To keep myself awake, I began to think of how many soldiers who had good, safe jobs there were for every front-line infantry man like me. I stopped counting at some ridiculous number like 1500. **We soon received word we were going to go to the Haguenau Forest.**

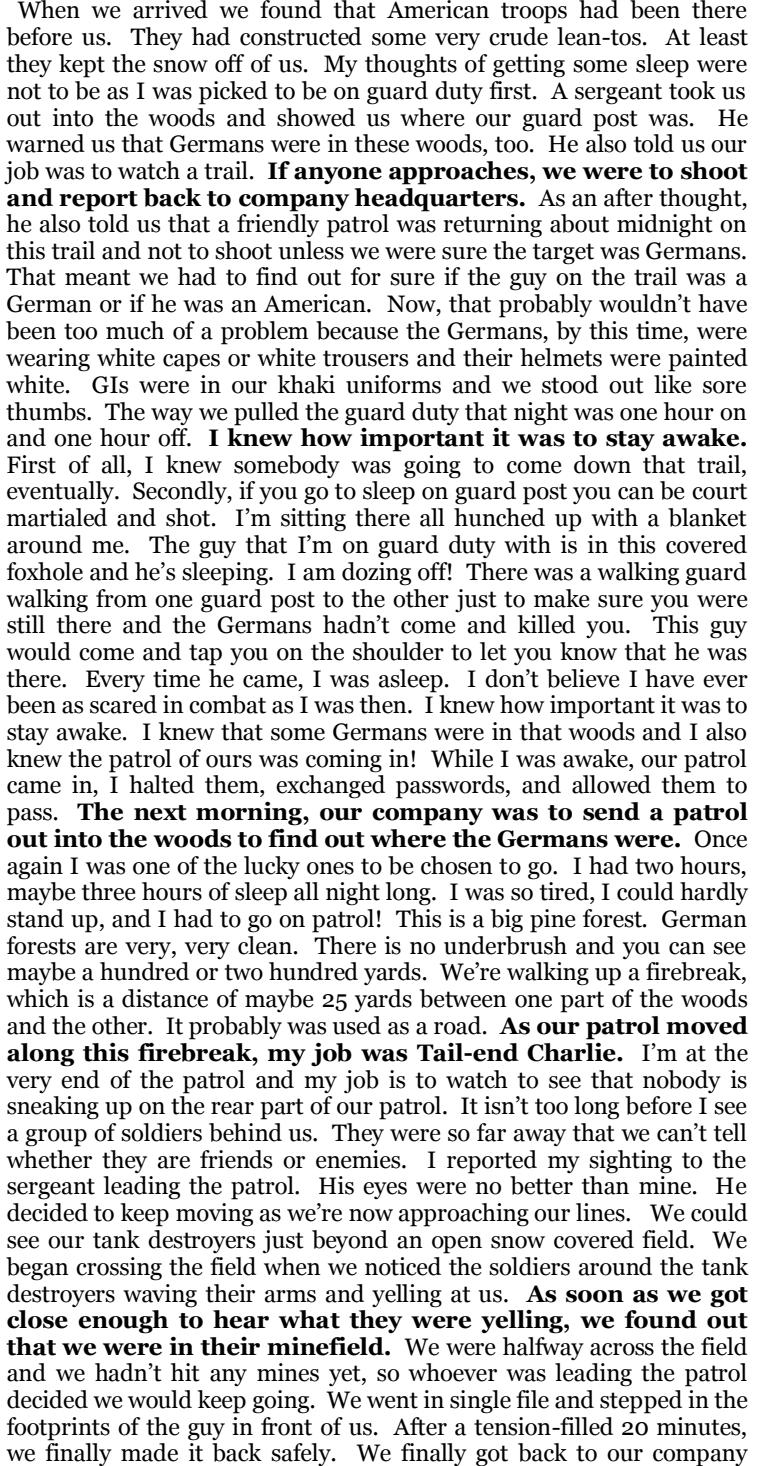
We lined up on both sides of the village street and started marching. Suddenly machine gun bullets were being fired right up the middle of the street. Our first thoughts were that a German had managed to get a machine gun up in the church steeple and was firing at us. (Church steeples were the favorite spots for snipers since the steeple was tall enough to overlook the whole village.) In just a few seconds we heard a "swooshing" sound and saw a German airplane in the air. This was our

first experience with the jet age. The airplane flew so fast that we didn't know it was there until it was well past us. He came back for another strafing run, but this time, we were not in the middle of the street. We had gone into the houses. He dropped a bomb back at battalion headquarters. As soon as we were sure he had gone, we continued down the road toward the Haguenau Forest.

[ed. Note - This was 13 January 1945. Lt. Col. Edwin Rusteberg, H1B-242, and your editor's father, was wounded by shell fragments during this strafing run, rejoining his unit days later after hospitalization] "Air raids were infrequent, but at Niederbetschdorf, France, a plane scored a hit on the command post of the

**242nd Infantry."** [p. 20, *42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division History World War II*, ed. Lt. Hugh C. Daly]

When we arrived we found that American troops had been there before us. They had constructed some very crude lean-tos. At least they kept the snow off of us. My thoughts of getting some sleep were not to be as I was picked to be on guard duty first. A sergeant took us out into the woods and showed us where our guard post was. He warned us that Germans were in these woods, too. He also told us our job was to watch a trail. **If anyone approaches, we were to shoot and report back to company headquarters.** As an after thought, he also told us that a friendly patrol was returning about midnight on this trail and not to shoot unless we were sure the target was Germans. That meant we had to find out for sure if the guy on the trail was a German or if he was an American. Now, that probably wouldn't have been too much of a problem because the Germans, by this time, were wearing white capes or white trousers and their helmets were painted white. GIs were in our khaki uniforms and we stood out like sore thumbs. The way we pulled the guard duty that night was one hour on and one hour off. **I knew how important it was to stay awake.** First of all, I knew somebody was going to come down that trail, eventually. Secondly, if you go to sleep on guard post you can be court martialed and shot. I'm sitting there all hunched up with a blanket around me. The guy that I'm on guard duty with is in this covered foxhole and he's sleeping. I am dozing off! There was a walking guard walking from one guard post to the other just to make sure you were still there and the Germans hadn't come and killed you. This guy would come and tap you on the shoulder to let you know that he was there. Every time he came, I was asleep. I don't believe I have ever been as scared in combat as I was then. I knew how important it was to stay awake. I knew that some Germans were in that woods and I also knew the patrol of ours was coming in! While I was awake, our patrol came in, I halted them, exchanged passwords, and allowed them to pass. **The next morning, our company was to send a patrol out into the woods to find out where the Germans were.** Once again I was one of the lucky ones to be chosen to go. I had two hours, maybe three hours of sleep all night long. I was so tired, I could hardly stand up, and I had to go on patrol! This is a big pine forest. German forests are very, very clean. There is no underbrush and you can see maybe a hundred or two hundred yards. We're walking up a firebreak, which is a distance of maybe 25 yards between one part of the woods and the other. It probably was used as a road. **As our patrol moved along this firebreak, my job was Tail-end Charlie.** I'm at the very end of the patrol and my job is to watch to see that nobody is sneaking up on the rear part of our patrol. It isn't too long before I see a group of soldiers behind us. They were so far away that we can't tell whether they are friends or enemies. I reported my sighting to the sergeant leading the patrol. His eyes were no better than mine. He decided to keep moving as we're now approaching our lines. We could see our tank destroyers just beyond an open snow covered field. We began crossing the field when we noticed the soldiers around the tank destroyers waving their arms and yelling at us. **As soon as we got close enough to hear what they were yelling, we found out that we were in their minefield.** We were halfway across the field and we hadn't hit any mines yet, so whoever was leading the patrol decided we would keep going. We went in single file and stepped in the footprints of the guy in front of us. After a tension-filled 20 minutes, we finally made it back safely. We finally got back to our company



headquarters. **My feet, by this time, were so frozen I could hardly walk.** I decided to go to the medics to see if something could be done for my frozen feet. I was hoping that if they are bad enough that I'd be sent back to the rear. There were a lot of guys there with nicks and creases, all looking to get out of the front lines, one way or the other! As a result, the medics were very tough on who they approved to be evacuated. Because of our casualties, every man was needed. When I took off my shoe pacs and socks, my feet were as white as they could be. They must have been pretty bad because there were no more questions asked and I was put in an ambulance. **I was taken to a town called Haguenau.** They had taken a school and set up a bunch of cots in there. I don't know just exactly what kind of treatment I got on my feet! I know that when I slept, I had to sleep with my feet outside the blanket so that they got air. I do remember this – we got warm chow! I think I stayed there one night and got a chance to get some sleep. After a good breakfast, I was put on a jeep going back to Fox Company. Fox Company was in the village called **Kaltenhaus**. While I was gone I found out that we had a new company commander assigned. The guys told me he was a good guy. He was a football player at Oklahoma. He lasted one day! I went into the room where our platoon was and somebody had found some chickens and we had fried chicken for supper! That was a pretty good meal! That night, there were about three of us sleeping on a bed. Suddenly artillery fire started coming into the town. The alert went out that the Germans were attacking. There were some guys standing in this room, in sort of a circle, deciding what to do. A shell hit the roof of the house we were in and one of the guys standing very close to me got a fragment and went down. **We got the orders to move out.** There were only 30 to 35 men remaining. We were supposed to reinforce any part of the line that was penetrated. Lucky for me, my squad was to be the reserve squad and the other two squads went out to plug the holes as the Germans came through. As it turned out, one squad was wiped out. There were all kinds of shooting and banging going on. We went out into this snow covered field and crouched down in the snow, waiting for orders. Now, in the meantime, the Germans had thrown in some smoke shells and the smoke hovered just about 18 inches over the ground. You could not see through that smoke. **All of a sudden, somebody started coming towards us.** We could see that it was a group of people, but we didn't know who it was because all we could see was a bunch of feet coming at us in this layer of clean air and the rest of their bodies were up in the smoke. We didn't know whether to shoot or not and finally somebody yelled, "Halt!" and we found out that it was one of our other squads coming back to where we were. We were sent into a small pine forest to search for Germans. The trees were probably no bigger than 20 feet tall and they were all pines. Germans were shooting mortars into this little pine forest and they were whopping all around us. **As soon as it was daylight, we formed a patrol to see if there were any German survivors from the attack.** We began searching a big flat field. We knew we were under German observation. We went out into this field and there were Germans lying around here and there. They were dressed in their white capes and baggy white pants. I came upon a German Lieutenant. He was lying on his back. His eyes were closed. I could tell he was alive because I could see the frost coming out of his nose as he breathed. I didn't know what to do. He had a P-38 pistol on his chest and I wanted the pistol. Everybody wanted to get a pistol. That was a prize of war. But I was afraid to touch this guy. I was afraid of him because I didn't know that he might have a grenade or something like that. **Just about that time, the Germans did open up on us with artillery and I made a running dive for a foxhole that happened to be there and I hit my right kneecap.** Oh, My God, I can still feel it, it hurt so much! At the time I thought I might have broken my kneecap, but obviously I didn't because wouldn't it have been wonderful if I had! Then I would have had to go back to the hospital and that's exactly where I wanted to go, but I didn't want a hole in me when they took me back! I laid there and I was really in agony. I was making tracks when I hit that foxhole. I was going full speed and dove in there just like you'd dive into water. I finally recovered enough to make it back into the village. We went back to the same house we had been in. We were a little short of ammunition and some of the guys had left some clips of ammo there and a few grenades. I discovered that the bed I'd slept in the night before was a mess. A German artillery shell had hit the wall and knocked the headboard completely down on that bed. It's probably a good thing we moved out!

The house was pretty well shot up. They knew we were in there and had hit it three or four times with artillery shells. **As soon as it got dark, we were given the task of bringing in our dead soldiers.** I was one of four guys sent out. So we went out and came to this body lying in the snow and put him on a stretcher and carried him back. It was kind of a gruesome type of thing. The arms and legs were crooked. One of the guys was on a stretcher with me. He was sort of a crybaby and he told me he couldn't carry it any more. As a matter of fact, he actually did drop the stretcher. We rolled the body back on the stretcher and got him back to battalion. Recovering this body made an impression on me. All I could think of was that maybe the next guy brought back to battalion would be me! The next night we got replacements. They brought in some guys who had never been in the Infantry before in their life. They went back in the rear areas and they rounded up two or three guys from every outfit and sent them up to us. We even got guys from the Air Force. Most of them had never fired a rifle before in their life. They really didn't know what they were doing. Fortunately we were going to be relieved and sent back.

**TO BE CONTINUED**



## WWII Jewish American Soldier Brings Home Unique History

**Story by MASTER SGT. PETER K. TOWSE, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Public Affairs**

Drafted at the age of 18 in 1944, Private First Class **Richard Marowitz** began as an army bugler with the 222<sup>nd</sup> Headquarters Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. A humble Jewish American, Marowitz volunteered for the Intelligence and Reconnaissance platoon, a 28-man group that earned the name "Suicide Squad" because, as scouts, ambushes were the norm. "April 30, 1945 was just another day for us to recon an area," Marowitz said. "We started at 5 a.m. at the command post to get briefed and get the most current maps for the day. Most of the maps were very sketchy, written in German and lacked a lot of information." Specific locations on the maps were assigned to the platoon for recon and gathering of information.

**"It was our job to make sure we collected every bit of information about the area in order to help the troops arriving later that day," Marowitz said.** That day, the area was very large and the platoon had to be divided. Marowitz was in a group of 12 men who were assigned an area of Munich, Germany. Working with civilian German spies, Marowitz and his group drove to Munich ... their first stop was the apartment of the Nazi dictator, Adolf Hitler. The only intelligence they received about German troops was that the town was not occupied by German infantry, but it was occupied by German Scout Snipers. With only one bridge to cross, the men secured as much of the area as possible and took each jeep across the foot bridge one at a time with nary an inch of clearance on either side of the vehicles. "We were praying that the jeeps were light enough to cross the bridge without it collapsing," Marowitz said. Marowitz and his platoon found Hitler's apartment ... and simply knocked on the front door. **Surprisingly, an elderly woman, Hitler's housekeeper, answered the door. She called the men ruffians and asked "Why is everyone so mad at Mr. Hitler? He is such a fine man."** The men split up and each took a room. Marowitz found himself in a bedroom searching for any intelligence he could bring back to headquarters. All of Hitler's drawers and shelves were empty. His closet was empty except for a dark object on the top shelf. Marowitz stepped up on a chair and grabbed it off the shelf. It was just a hat. Marowitz found the initials A.H. written in gold lettering. "I immediately knew whose hat I had in my hands," Marowitz said.

**"I was quick to throw the hat on the floor and stomp it flat!"** Marowitz took the hat with him when they left the building to return to HQ and the division photographer took a picture of Marowitz and the infamous hat. The photo instantly became famous and the stomp foreshadowed the Fuhrer's fate. Marowitz brought the hat back with him after the war and it was displayed in the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. **After roughly six decades, Hitler's crushed hat is merely a symbolic reminder of the Nazi legacy.**

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**The MacArthur Memorial/Museum Grand Opening of the renovated facility will begin Oct 12, 2012** with an evening event, then continue on the 13th and 14th. "Under the Rainbow: the 42nd "Rainbow Division in the Great War" begins the centennial anniversary of the Great War, which began in Europe in 1914. This exhibit tells the story of the officers and men of the Rainbow Division from its inception at Camp Mills, New York in the summer of 1917, across the battlefields of France, and into occupation service in Germany until the deactivation of the division in the spring of 1919. Many of the items exhibited have never before been on display at the MacArthur Memorial, and includes uniforms, equipment and personal items of the men of the Rainbow as well as other Allied countries and Central Powers. Among the highlights are uniform and equipment of Lt. Kilmer, killed at the Battle of the Marne in July 1918; set of German trench armor; and an extensive collection of Rainbow Division Veterans Association memorabilia. <http://www.macarthurmémorial.org/>

The event will be attended by members of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (RDVMF)



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