



Rainbow,
Never Forget!

42 RAINBOW DIVISION
Veterans Memorial Foundation

REVEILLE

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Medivac Soldiers Deploying

ROCHESTER, NY -- On September 29th, 2012 the New York Army National Guard Soldiers of F Co. (Air Ambulance) 1-169 General Support Aviation Battalion render their final salutes to their families before boarding onto their aircraft. Soon after, the soldiers of F Co. and their six UH-60 Blackhawks made their final fly over of the families before going to Ft. Hood, Texas. Ft. Hood will be their staging point for their deployment to Afghanistan to fulfill their role as a Medical Evacuation company.



Photos/captions by SPC Harley Jelis, 42nd CAB PAO, NYARNG



ROCHESTER-- Family members of 43 Soldiers assigned to F Co. 1-169 General Support Aviation Battalion watch as the unit's UH-60 Blackhawks make their final fly over on their way to Ft. Hood, Texas on Saturday, Sept. 29. The Soldiers, who fly medical evacuation helicopters, will train at Fort Hood before deploying to Afghanistan. The unit conducted a farewell ceremony on Sept. 28.

Home From Afghanistan



SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- New York Army National Guard Sp. Josh Austin (L) gives his daughter, Jaida, a kiss upon returning home from Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion,

108th Infantry Regiment September 26, 2012. The battalion deployed to Afghanistan as Task Force Iron, conducting security missions in various bases. The first elements of the battalion returned from demobilization at Camp Shelby, Miss., bringing some 200 Soldiers home to their families. Other Soldiers returned to their families in Newburg, Glenville, Utica, Camp Smith and New York on Wednesday.



Photos/caption by MSG Peter K. Towse, 42D ID PAO

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

Foundation members, as we approach the end of 2012 let us reflect on the many changes which have come to the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation (RDVMF) over the past several years. Once we had two distinct organizations, The 42nd Rainbow Division National Association as well as the RDVMF. While the National Association conducted reunions for the social good and camaraderie of its war time veterans the Foundation Board had the responsibility to maintain the traditions and memorials of past generations while providing an avenue for recording new traditions and creating new memorials for the history made by the current and future generations of Rainbow Division soldiers and their families.



In 2005 the Leaders of the Association decided to merge into the Foundation in order to conserve resources. I think this was a wise move. Today that merger is allowing the current Foundation leadership to better focus on the mission of commemorating the deeds, sacrifices and traditions of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division through memorials, education and the preservation of Division history.

At our 2012 Annual Reunion the Board voted to revise bylaws, launch a new website, voted in new board and committee members, established an education partnership and gave approval to establish a new memorial for current era veterans in NYC. It is these type actions that must be the focus for the RDVMF if we are to accomplish our mission. We will enjoy our reunions and other social events as we march forward but we must also take actions that support The Foundation's mission, and **WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP AND NEW MEMBERSHIP TO HELP SUPPORT THAT MISSION.**

As we enter the New Year I look forward to raising some money to better support our scholarship program, establishing our newest memorial in NYC, approving new bylaws and bringing better communications to our supporters and membership through a first class website.

Susan and I wish you a most joyous holiday season.

God Bless all of you and yours.

Joe Taluto, RDVMF Chairman

From Joe Taluto – New Rainbow Division Memorial Planned

On October 3d Membership Chairman Paul Genereux and I had a meeting with Mr Lee Ielpi, Executive Director of the 911 Tribute Center and Ms Alice Greenwald, Director of the Memorial Museum to discuss a memorial for those military members who served during the response and recovery effort and then went on to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Our vision for the memorial will be inclusive in that it will recognize all those that served under the Forty Second's command during the 911 response.** It was a very good meeting.



They feel that a memorial would be very fitting. We look forward to working the process to make this newest memorial a reality on behalf of the men and women of the Rainbow Division and to establish a working relationship with the 911 Tribute center in educating our children on the events of September 11th 2001. More to follow!! L-R Director of 911 Tribute Center, Lee Ielpi; RDVMF Chairman, Joe Taluto; RDVMF Membership Chairman, Paul Genereux; RDVMF member Paul Ciorra

Cutoff date December 15, 2012 for January 2013 issue.

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Loving God, into Your hands we commend our spirits, hopes, fears, and desires. To You we commit the wants of our perishable bodies, to You we commit our immortal souls, knowing we have nothing to fear while we withdraw it not from Thy bosom. Though our faults may be many, our misery great, our spiritual poverty extreme, our hope in You surpasses all. That hope is greater than our difficulties, and stronger than death. Though failure may overtake us, we will hope in You still, we will look to You confidently for grace that You share so abundantly. We trust in You, for You are our God, our Father, and our Friend. We are Your people, and we pray for a special blessing for Rainbow men and women everywhere knowing by putting our trust in You, it shall never be confounded. – Amen

Earnie Owen, Associate Chaplain

DEE R. EBERHART'S MEMORY OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU

— The third in a series of speeches from 42nd Division WWII veterans requested by the "Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners" (FFDP), The Netherlands and coordinated by FFDP representative, Mr. Jaap van Mesdag and Frank Burns, President of the Pacific NW Chapter of the RDVMF.

Our shared project is continuing.

Please contact Frank Burns for further information: (206) 527-0987

Dee's speech is under copyright to the FFDP and will be published on their website and the Rainbow Facebook Page in the near future.



Photo by Katie Eberhart –

April 29, 2010 Dutch Remembrance ceremony at Dachau, Block 29, Former 'Nacht und Nebel' Dutch Barracks inside the Camp ("A prison within a prison"). Dee Eberhart's presentation; Jaap van Mesdag holding the camera.

My name is Dee R. Eberhart, born in Los Angeles, California in 1924, started to school in Aurora, Nebraska, but most of my pre-war schooling was in Toppenish, Washington, a small town on the Yakama (Yakima) Indian Reservation. During high school, I worked after school and on Saturdays at the Safeway grocery store (now supermarket) and one summer at the local cannery. I graduated from high school on

May 15, 1943 and was inducted into the Army on May 26, 1943. My Army training began with 5 months in the Infantry at Camp Roberts, CA, followed by Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), from which I volunteered for Air Corps Pilot Training. That ended when all of us who had had ground force training but who had not completed Air Corps preflight training were returned to the ground forces. That for me meant more infantry, 42nd Rainbow Division, training at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma and our sudden overseas assignment in November 1944.

I was a First Scout in I Company, 242nd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Linden comprised of the 222nd, 232nd and 242nd Infantry Regiments only (no usual supporting troops). In France, Task Force Linden was assigned first to General Patton's 3rd Army and then transferred to General Patch's 7th army, in Alsace, during the Ardennes/Alsace campaign. We had 100% casualties in my 10 man squad; some of them were replacements; I was not wounded; but 3 of my foxhole buddies were picked off right beside me in January 1945. The rest of the 42nd Division (Artillery, Engineers, Quartermasters, etc.) joined us in February; and we broke through the Siegfried Line (German Westwall) at about this time of year (March) in 1945; crossed the Rhine (I - 242) on April 1 (Easter Sunday); captured Wurzburg; Schweinfurt; Furth (Nuremberg's satellite city); and Donauworth (crossed the Danube in assault boats) on the way toward Munich and the "Alpine Redoubt." As we were approaching Munich in late April, the U.S. 7th Army was moving fast to capture and occupy the so called Alpine Redoubt in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps where all of the die-hard Nazis were supposed to fight their final battle to the end. Our senior military planners apparently fell for that German propaganda. **Munich was a linchpin, and the commanding generals of at least 4 American Divisions in the XV Corps, 7th Army all wanted the glory of capturing Munich.** Consequently our Division's two attacking Regiments, the 222nd and the 242nd of the 42nd Rainbow Division were motorized on the morning of April 29. I am not sure about our 3rd Regiment (the 232nd) that was in reserve that day. The morning of April 29 was sunny. My 3rd Platoon, I Co., 242nd Inf., was attached to the 1st Battalion 222nd Inf., because that unit had at least one empty 6x6 truck and our 3rd Battalion 242nd did not have a truck for us. These were verbal orders only, and for the rest of the day we traveled in convoy with the 1st Battalion 222nd which was diverted from the Augsburg-Munich Autobahn to Dachau. **The Commanding officer of the 42nd Division, Major General Harry Collins gave orders to his Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General Henning Linden to go to Dachau, and "freeze the prisoners in place" until food and medical aid could be provided.** B.G. Linden and his small Division Headquarters party had been joined by some War correspondents, including Paul Levy (Belgian and friend of Arthur Haulot who was a key man in the recently formed International Dachau Committee inside the Camp. Other correspondents present were Peter Furst, Stars & Stripes and Marguerite Higgins, N.Y. Herald Tribune. Victor Maurer, Swiss International Red Cross, had been allowed into the SS compound a day or so earlier. He persuaded SS Lt. Heinrich Wickert, Commander, to surrender instead of resisting when the Americans arrived.

With Victor Maurer present, Lt. Wickert surrendered the Camp to B.G. Linden. A few of the Linden group went inside the prisoners compound. In the meantime the 2nd Bn., 222nd Inf., under the command of Lt. Col. Donald Downard had arrived and Col. Downard and a Tank Destroyer Lt. personally rescued from one of the death train box cars the only survivor from that entire train. Some, maybe all of the units of the 222nd 1st Bn., under command of Lt. Col. Mickey Fellenz, including my attached platoon, also arrived at the camp, where in the verbatim words of my buddy, Jack Parry, "The prisoners are beating up the guards." **Actually, the prisoners were killing the Kapos since few if any SS troops were inside the wire.** Units of the 3rd Bn. 222nd were also at KZ Dachau on April 29. Thus most of the 222nd Regt., plus attached units were at or in KZ Dachau on April 29. More or less at the same time the 45th Division's Co. I, 157th Inf., under command of 1st Lt. Bill Walsh, and M-157th heavy machine gunners, as well as 3rd Bn., 157th Inf. C.O., Lt. Col. Felix Sparks who had arrived from a different direction. **Those were the troops who shot the SS troops in the coal yard.** I had understood that these SS troops were from the Viking SS Division, who had taken over from the Death Head campguards shortly before we arrived. However, from what I think I heard Reinhard Pappenfuss say last year during the tour of the former SS compound, the "SS" at the camp were a "scratch bunch" of young Wehrmacht recruits or maybe Hitler youth, dressed in SS uniforms. Now, I am unsure; except that most were not original SS guards. **It was chaotic that afternoon. There were former prisoners outside the enclosure.** A few had come out through the Jourhaus Gate and some may have been on work commandos. They would rush up and embrace us. There was some sporadic shooting. At about dark my platoon took over a couple of houses at the edge of the town of Dachau for billets. **The next day, the 42nd, 3rd, 45th and 20th Armored Divisions captured Munich.** My 2nd Scout, Willie Shurtleff and I "liberated" the Botanical Gardens 2-story main building - which held a German general and about 100 troops (no casualties). I was on a lead tank and in front of us a husky former Dachau prisoner chased and kicked to death a German soldier, who might have been SS. None of us in or on the tank did anything to prevent the killing. **It was overcast and cold. That night it snowed.** The next morning (May Day) there were several inches of snow on the ground as we moved on foot once again, eastward toward the Inn River and Austria. One of the Company's Non Commissioned officers asked for volunteers to go to Dachau in accordance with General Eisenhower's orders for as many as possible American troops to be sent to newly liberated concentration camps to bear witness. None of us from my platoon had any desire to go back there. However, from friends from other units, I was told that all of the dead had been left in place so that the full horror was still exposed and well recorded. **This is my message to the next generation at the Dachau Monument ceremony.** Since that monument and commemoration event are place and time specific, my message to the young people should be the same. My following observations are from a WWII combat rifleman in Europe who personally encountered or was otherwise familiar with 1) the Perpetrators (the Nazis and their supporters), 2) Victims (concentration camp survivors and others caught up in the War and the Holocaust); and 3) Victors: Allied Armed Forces, especially U.S. Army Infantry and Air Corps, as well as contacts with men of some other Allied military units.

My major suggestions are: (a) Know your WWII history, and at least understand the Nazi excesses and the occupation of your country and much of the rest of Europe (b) Civilization is a thin veneer at best, and evil is a reality; ordinary people are capable of committing terrible atrocities (c) Be aware of and resist extremist messages of any political persuasion (d) Do not succumb to peer pressure to "bully," that is to persecute or otherwise demean those who may be different or excluded from any particular clique (e) Most importantly, put hate aside and indulge in it, if at all, only in the confrontation with evil. Hatred of others, often encouraged by demagogues, was fundamental to the Nazi creed and its propaganda machine (f) In short, be knowledgeable, vigilant, and recognize that your liberty is precious and has only been achieved at great sacrifice by others. As such it is worthy of your care and protection.

My adjustment to civilian life was relatively simple.

I quickly obtained a good summer job (1946) in the experimental department of California Packing Corp. (Del Monte Foods), then began Fall classes at the University of Washington in Seattle followed by

Graduate School at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. After that it was professional work and our own family operations. There were brief interludes when I drank too much and engaged in semi-reckless behavior (nothing serious), and I had some jumpiness and nightmare problems (momentary and minor) but no post traumatic stress disorder that I will ever acknowledge. Any advice I might pass on to young combat veterans is probably worthless. **However, in my case, I remained in contact with those I had been close to during the war. For me this was invaluable.** Because of shared experiences and pride, there was always a feeling of implied support, even though it was never requested and never needed. Therefore, maintaining close wartime friendships and having a supportive family have been important to me, and I assume that it would be the same for others.

Dee R. Eberhart, U.S. Veteran WWII, Co. I, 242nd Infantry, 42nd Rainbow Division, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe Campaigns; KZ Dachau, April 29, 1945

RESPONSE TO Robert B. Turpin's speech printed in the September 2012 REVEILLE - I am responding to the article by



Robert B. Turpin regarding the liberation of Dachau. Our company - Cannon Co., 222nd Infantry Regiment, was also there in April 1945 and saw the prisoners who had survived. The memory of that experience has remained with me since then and stands out above all else that happened in combat and thereafter. After we were situated in Salzburg, a paper by (then) Tec. 3 James W. Creasman [HQ Co 42nd Div] was given to all of us. I have carried this with me since then and have given copies to Kansas Legislators as well. I want to share this first person account with the 42nd (Rainbow) Infantry Division veterans. It is printed from the original account and while the paper has turned brown, I believe it should be available to the Division. Since then, my wife and I visited Auschwitz and Auschwitz II-Birkenau camps and find it difficult to see any justification for the mistreatment of various people. The Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC is a vivid example of what these people endured.

Dr. Medford H. Shively, Lawrence, KS [photo]

[Ed. The text of Tec 5 Creasman's letter may be found online <http://www.scrapbookpages.com/DachauScrapbook/DachauLiberation/NewsLetter.html> ; for a reprint of Dr. Shively's original copy, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the REVEILLE editor.

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE - Start to Finish Mentorship for Veterans Returning to College

Every year veterans make the decision to return to college to complete the degree they started years earlier or to begin for the first time. Either way, it can be both exhilarating and unsettling. Exhilarating at the thought of 'being back in school' with the goal to complete your degree just in sight and unsettling at the prospect of needing to 'brush up' on your writing skills and possibly being the only student in class who didn't graduate from high school the year before!

Excelsior College's mentorship program, available within the Online Veterans' Center, is available for veteran students returning to college. Nothing is more important for online college success than becoming acclimated to distance learning and knowledge of where the tools they need are located. Excelsior's mentorship program offers new veteran students a veteran mentor to help navigate the online classroom environment and provide assistance in locating support and resources. In addition, your mentor can help ease your transition, provide encouragement and tips on being successful.

Excelsior College is a regionally accredited, non-profit, and has been successfully serving working adults with their educational needs for more than 40 years. There are many resources available to students to assist them in brushing up their writing such as the Online Writing Lab - excelsior.edu/owl - which is available to the public. And, by the way, the average age of an Excelsior student is 39 years old.

The College has an education partnership with RDVMF providing reduced tuition and fees for associate and bachelor degrees for RDVMF employees, members and their spouses or domestic partners. For more information on the partnership, go to: <http://www.excelsior.edu/rainbow-division-veterans-memorial-fund> or contact Judy Reed at jreed@excelsior.edu or call 518-464-8678 for assistance.

A RAINBOW IN THE SKIES!



Hello to my Rainbow friends,
My name is Elayne Shafner Feldman; daughter of Sid (HQ-222) and Esther Shafner. I attended many reunions with my parents and loved every one. I made many friends and have the best memories of the reunions.

I was an 11th and 12th grade Social Studies teacher. I especially loved teaching American History. WWII was my favorite unit. One year my father flew from Denver to Minneapolis to speak to my classes about WWII and the Rainbow Division.

Two years ago I left teaching to become a flight attendant; something I have wanted to do since I was 10 years old. On my serving apron,

on the aircraft, I proudly wore the Rainbow Division pin. Passengers always asked me about the pin. I beamed with pride in telling them the WWII history of the division. I was devastated when I lost the pin two weeks ago. With Rainbow quickness Suellen heard my pleas and sent me Ken Carpenter's 42nd Division/crossed flag pin which he had given to her. The pin is back on my serving apron. I will once again proudly wear my Rainbow as I fly the skies.

With Rainbow Love, Elayne



REVEILLE editor: This pin came from a dear friend, **Ken Carpenter (H-232), former editor of the REVEILLE for many years.** Ken gave me his collection of different pins including this one. One of the most generous men I've ever met, he would be happy at the thought that his 42nd Division/Crossed USA Flag pin will be put to such

good use in the spirit of the Rainbow - which he dearly loved.

OUR RAINBOW SCHOLARS



My name is Michelle Girardot and I am the granddaughter of Vincent Campo who was a member of the 222nd Infantry Regiment, Company B. I just started my freshman year as a Vocal Performance major at the University of

Houston. I have been to four Rainbow Division reunions (Arkansas, Salt Lake City, Ohio, and New Orleans) with my parents and grandparents, and have enjoyed playing Taps and singing for the memorial services each time. I never really understood how music could touch the lives of others until I played Taps for the first time with my brother and a veteran came up to me afterwards with tears in his eyes. Even closer to my heart was singing for the memorial service the summer after my grandfather died. It was the one small gift I could give to provide some comfort and closure to not only myself, but for my family and the family and friends of others lost as well. At the recent reunion in New Orleans, my sister taught me how to swing dance outside in the hallway during the banquet. For awhile we were just dancing together, but Mr. Ted Simonson came up and danced with both of us. Though my own personal experiences with him were limited, I have heard so many wonderful things about him and his dedication to Rainbow. I am so very honored to be the first recipient of his Scholarship (the Ted Simonson Rainbow Scholarship). This scholarship will allow me to be able to study what I love. As an educator, I'm sure Mr. Simonson was an avid supporter of higher education and loved fine arts and music as well. Thank you so much again and even though he has passed away, I am positive his legacy will continue to live on. Sincerely, Michelle Girardot

Photo L-R Michelle Girardot, Anna Campo, and Vincent Campo

RAINBOW CHAPTER NEWS

The MACARTHUR CHAPTER was established in 2011 with its membership nucleus coming from the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division Association Inc.

President – MG (Ret.) Robert Rose; Secretary - MAJ Sal Mongiovi; Treasurer – COL William Vorlicek. Chapter is Headquartered in Peekskill, NY. For more information contact **Sal Mongiovi.**

P.O. Box 831 Peekskill, NY 10566-0831

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ST. LOUIS, Missouri Members meet in May, September and December, usually at O'Leary's Restaurant on South Lindbergh, in St. Louis County, for lunch at 11:30 A.M. Visitors are welcome. For more information contact

Esther Peirce at (636) 949-9196

MO-KAN Chapter (in Kansas City, Missouri) meets for lunch on the last Tuesday of each month at the Hometown Buffet on 40 Highway at 1:00 P.M.. The exceptions are in May when the members usually have a Memorial service at the Rainbow Arch on Memorial Day. A lunch follows the Memorial Service. November is skipped, and the date is moved forward a couple of weeks into December and there is a Christmas get-together. Sometimes at a member's home – or just back at the usual place. Anyone visiting Kansas City is welcome to attend. For more information contact

Louise Rhodes at (816) 524-2388.



The Pacific NW Chapter of the RDVMF met October 19-21 at the Towne-Place Suites Marriott-South Center, Kent, WA (Seattle area). Members L-R are Will & Ruby Miller, Art Klein, Esther Brophy, Betty Soule, Barbara Eberhart, Lloyd Soule, Dee Eberhart, Fran & Bob Martinson, Walt Brophy and Frank Burns. The Pacific NW Chapter almost doubled attendance at their Fall reunion by meeting in the Seattle area instead of the beautiful resort area of Long Beach, Washington. It wasn't as glamorous but it eliminated a long, difficult drive.



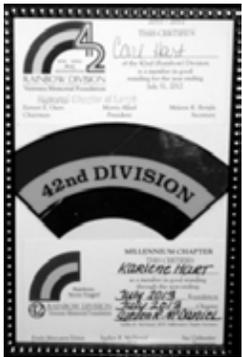
Photos by MSG Peter K. Towse, RDVMF photographer – Scenes from the Eastern Region Fall gathering October 10-12, Ocean City, NJ at the Port-O-Call Hotel. A note from Pete – thanks to Gloria Walker and her daughter Pat for the donated chocolates that were at the dinner. Very nicely done!

MESSAGE FROM A RAINBOW DAUGHTER

Karlene Hart, daughter of Carl Wilbur Hart, 232-E, d. March 2012

Reprinted from the Fall issue of *The Bulletin*, the newsletter of the RDV National Auxiliary – photos of Carl Hart and daughter Karlene at his Bronze Star Medal presentation August 2008; Carl Hart, Austria 1945 [Editor Barbara Eberhart: Karlene sent an inquiry to the <Rainbowvets.org> asking if she could be a part of the Rainbow organization. Of course Suellen and I encouraged her.] She wrote – “Thanks so much!! You’ll be receiving my check very soon. You don’t realize how much this means to me. **With my dad passing away in March I felt as if the bond between him and the Rainbow Division also died.** The RDVA [now RDVMF] was the only organization that I ever remember my dad belonging to that meant so much to him, one that he belonged to for many years, and he insisted that his dues be kept up even while he was in the nursing home since 2004. Having been able to go to a few of the reunions, I felt the bond that so many of them have. **With this membership, I feel**

part of my dad is still alive and that my bond is beginning also. I am so very proud that my dad is/was a “Rainbower” and as I became older, I would look at my dad and his pictures of Dachau and could hardly fathom that this country boy from Hale, Missouri was involved in so much and was one of the few of his original company that came back alive. He even had the division’s “rainbow” engraved on his cemetery stone! That took a while to get it just right to meet the specifications of my dad and the division! **I am so very grateful he was living when the Bronze Star Medal was presented to him after so many years (2008).** I know he couldn’t be more pleased with me (which makes me teary-eyed once more). Someday, I hope I will meet you, Suellen, and the others who are involved in this great organization!!



POSTSCRIPT - I did the framing of the card because I didn’t want to throw away my dad’s card (he kept almost every one of them). When you sent mine and I noticed how similar they were, I just had to put them together. It was my way of saying, “Daddy, we’re still together”. Wish you could see the response I’m getting after having it put on Facebook. I stated there has been a “Hart” connected with the 42nd since the time my dad was assigned to it in WW II. I’m so glad I didn’t wait a year or so—that I joined the year of his death. And my thanks to you and Barbara for making me feel so “connected”

with the rest of the Rainbowers.

WARTIME MEMORIES (Part Six)

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



The next morning at dawn, we started marching out of the village. Another outfit came in during the night and relieved us. We were really glad to leave because we had seen about 17 or 18 days of combat and had really taken a large number of casualties. It is very revealing that you can go into combat with 182 men but you don’t come out with the same number. **The following facts and figures are**

taken from the official military records. They cover all of the companies in the 2nd Battalion. All of the Infantry companies, Companies E, F, and G, had 182 personnel when they went into combat on the fifth of January. On the sixth of January, E Company was down to 113. F Company, that was my company, was down to 42.

G Company was not hit as badly. They had 122 left. On January 28 – now that’s 23 days later – when we came out of the lines, officially present for duty, Company E had 36, Company F had 19, Company G

had 76 and the note says, “2nd Battalion 242nd Infantry left Weyersheim – that’s where we first went into combat – with a loss of 309 or a casualty rate of 55.6 per cent. They entered the fighting at Hatten and Rittershoffen on January 9 at half-strength and on January 28, when relieved, had suffered 157 more casualties, which is 40 per cent. **Overall, from January 5 to January 28, total casualties were 466, or 69.6 per cent.** Now, I’ve done a lot of reading about parachute outfits that had dropped into Normandy. I don’t believe I have ever read of a unit that had lost that many people. There were 19 of us present for duty on January 28. Only 14 of the 19 were riflemen because there were the mess sergeant, the first cook, the second cook, supply sergeant and the armor artificer – the guy that repaired weapons – that’s five people that were not on the line with us. They were back at the rear somewhere with our trucks and our mess equipment. **Of the 19, only 14 of us were still on our feet on January 28.** Those are fantastic numbers. In talking with my old first-sergeant, Sergeant Trantham, he told me 34 men were killed in action on the first day and 42 were killed in the remaining time. Those facts and figures are something you don’t brag about, but you begin to say, my God, what were the odds of surviving. When we came out of the lines, I can still remember what a relief it was. We went back on trucks and of course it was January 28 – very, very cold. There was snow on the ground. **We went to the little town that we were going to be billeted in, Blanche Eglise.** Blanche eglise means ‘white church’. It was just a little farming village with a little white church in the middle. We went to some barracks and had warm showers. They took us back to Blanche Eglise and we got a good night’s sleep on the floor. Soon we began to get replacements in. It wasn’t two or three days later that I was told that I had been promoted to Sergeant. That’s three stripes. I was so proud because my father had been in World War I in the Third Division and he made PFC and that was it. Finally, here I am, a buck sergeant. I had finally done something my father hadn’t done and I was so proud of that! About seven or 10 days later they promoted me to Staff Sergeant, which was three stripes up and one rocker underneath. Again, I was proud except for the fact that they told me I was going to be in a rifle platoon rather than the weapons platoon. I was not too happy about this because being in the weapons platoon is supposed to be safer than being in a rifle platoon. **All of a sudden I went from being a 60-millimeter mortar man to being a rifleman.** My job was to be the platoon guide in a rifle platoon. My platoon sergeant’s name was Johnson. He was from Chicago and we got along pretty well. I wasn’t too happy about that situation, but they tell you what to do and that’s what you do. We refitted and got ready to go – new clothes, new weapons. After about 10 days we were told we were going back to the front. Of course, nobody was too happy about that. **We went up to the front on trucks and the closer we got, the jitterier those of us who had been in combat became.** They finally debarked us from the trucks in a little town and, luckily for us, the second battalion was in reserve. This means that we were not right up in the front lines. Although, the first night or so we were in positions close to the front. I went around checking foxholes. These kids were all new. They didn’t know what was going on. I walked up to one foxhole and here’s a guy in there with a candle. He was either reading or he was writing a letter. I couldn’t believe it – here’s a guy in the front lines with a candle making a perfect silhouette for somebody to shoot him! This was the kind of a kid that went into combat for the first time. He didn’t really know what was going on and how dangerous it was. We got him squared away very quickly. We went back into reserve. Usually the reserve outfits are the ones that go on patrol. **One day our company was given a patrol mission.** My platoon was assigned this mission. I didn’t feel too concerned about it because our Second Lieutenant platoon leader was going to be in charge of the patrol. All I was going to have to do was follow his orders. When we got up to the front lines we were briefed by the S-2, which is the intelligence officer. He informed us that our platoon would be split into two patrols. The Lieutenant would lead one and I would lead the other. I now became very concerned! I had never led a patrol in combat before. I will now be in charge of 12 or 15 men. **The only good thing about the patrol was that it was a reconnaissance patrol.** We were looking for information and would fight only if necessary to capture a prisoner. The Lieutenant gave me my first choice as to the route our patrol was to take. I took a look at the map and one patrol route was up a draw leading up onto a ridge. The other one was right up the side of the ridge. I could still remember

some of my basic training when we were told that the Germans cover draws with machine guns. It was best to avoid draws, if possible. **I chose the patrol that went directly up the side of the ridge.** We were told to cut off our Rainbow Division patch and sew on the 100th Division patch. In case we were captured, we were to tell the Germans we were 100th Division troops. This was to confuse them as to who was actually opposing them. We started the next morning just as dawn was breaking. We had to cross a valley, which was probably two hundred yards across. I took my men down to the valley floor and, remembering my basic training, I put them in a diamond formation. I sent two men across first to act as scouts. They crossed without trouble and signaled it was safe for the rest of the patrol to cross. We all got across the opening quite well – no shooting, nobody made any noise – and we start moving up the side of the ridge. **The scout that was out in front came back and reported a fire up ahead.** It looked like someone cooking breakfast. Our mission was to capture a prisoner. If we could capture a prisoner in the first minutes of our patrol, we could return to our lines. We planned to surround the smoking fire and capture whoever was there. Much to our disgust, it was nothing but smoldering white phosphorus. Sometimes when they shoot white phosphorus shells, the phosphorus doesn't all burn. It smolders and this was what was putting up the white smoke. We were very disappointed because we thought we were going to find some German on an outpost cooking some coffee or something and we'd pick him up and go home quickly. We kept moving up the hill. **When we were about 50 yards from the top we could see a German soldier.** He came over the ridge and he did what soldiers have to do every once in a while; he was going to relieve himself. If we could act quickly, we would have had a great advantage over that soldier. By the time we had our plans made, he was gone. Now we knew the Germans were up on the ridge top, just out of sight. As we were lying on the side of that hill trying to come up with a plan to capture a prisoner, we hear mess kits rattling and Germans talking. Obviously they were getting one of the warm meals of the day. Usually the German army would bring up at least one warm meal a day. **It was also pretty plain that we were greatly outnumbered.** I assembled the patrol and we turned around and came back. As all of this activity was going on, we could hear shooting on our left. This is where the Lieutenant had taken his patrol. We knew that they had run into trouble. We finally made it back to the intelligence officer and were debriefed. We were asked why we didn't have a prisoner. I told them there were just too many up there and we only had about 15 guys. I said there was a whole company up there and there was no way we could have grabbed a guy and come back. I could tell that the intelligence officer wasn't too happy about that, but there wasn't much we could do. He said, "You were the patrol leader. You did what you had to do." **Soon the other patrol arrived. They had casualties. The Lieutenant was white. He was really shook up.** We had a couple of twins in the company at this time and one of them had stepped on a Schu mine and had blown his foot off. There were several other wounded and I think they had some captured. Basic training paid off for me! We finally went back to the company. That was my experience taking a patrol out and I surely didn't want to do anything like that again. **On the fifteenth of March we attacked all across our front.** This was the one where we were going to finally crack the Siegfried Line. 2nd battalion was lucky in that we were going to be in reserve. The 1st and 3rd battalions were going to spearhead through the Siegfried Line. We were going to follow up. **To Be Continued.**

BOOKS!



"Yours Til The End"

by Shirley Forehand Kinsey, daughter of PVT Burlie Forehand, M-242.

Forward by BG Steven Wickstrom, 42nd Division CO. The story of Private Burlie Forehand through the letters he wrote to his wife, Hazel, while serving in the WWII 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division. Author, Shirley Forehand Kinsey, one of four daughters of Burlie and Hazel, received her father's blessing to publish the letters in a book upon the sisters' discovery of them. Hazel had tenderly preserved Burlie's letters in her lingerie drawer for more than fifty years. While much of the letters

reveal Burlie's love and devotion to his wife and family, they also introduce the men serving alongside Burlie and their experiences . . . as much as Burlie could divulge. Shirley has dedicated *Yours til the End* to her father for writing the letters; to her mother for the preservation of the letters; and to the 42nd Rainbow Infantry Division her father was so proud to have been a part of for many years. **Shirley is serving as President of the RDVMF National Auxiliary and has pledged a portion of the proceeds from her book to the RDVMF, as a way of honoring her dad, and to honor the WWII 42nd veterans.**

Bush Publishing and Associates, 200 pages, paperback, to be published November 2012. Ordering information – list price will be \$19.95. Please watch for updates on <http://www.bushpublishing.com/> and <http://www.amazon.com>



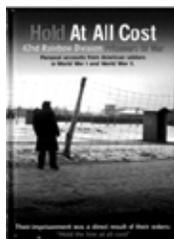
"Letters From Lank"

By Thomas B. "Tom" O'Neill (G-242)

Memories of Combat through the personal correspondence of two WWII Rainbow soldiers, SGT Thomas B. "Tom" O'Neill and 2LT Charles "Lank" Paine, who shared a decades-long friendship begun in 1943, at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma with their training in the famous 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division as members of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 242nd Infantry

Regiment. **80 pages.** To order, send **\$16.50 check** or money order payable to **Thomas B. O'Neill** (includes S&H) to Tom - (704) 814-7125 6409 Daviswood Court Charlotte, NC 28270-1822. **Tom is pledging a portion of the proceeds of the sale of his book to the RDVMF Scholarship Fund.**

The following two books are now In short supply, with no current plans to reprint –



Hold At All Cost/

42ND Rainbow Division Prisoners of

War pub. by the RDVMF in 2004. If you would like to own this 492 page Rainbow History book, there are only **27 copies left!** The cost is still only **\$15.00** including S&H. Checks should be payable to **RDVMF** and mailed to REVEILLE editor, Suellen R. McDaniel, 1400 Knolls Drive Newton, NC 28658-9452.



42ND "Rainbow" Infantry Division/A

Combat History of World War II edited by LT Hugh C. Daly and originally published in 1946. There are only **75 copies left** of this softcover reprint - **\$25.00 cost** includes S&H, check payable to

Cindy Kirkpatrick and mailed to her at: 918 Forstell Road Wentzville, MO 63385-6118

TRIBUTE to RAINBOW DIVISION ARTIST

Theodore Ross MacKechnie

(Col., U.S. Army, Ret.), who passed 'over the Rainbow' on 25 August 2012 at Fort Belvoir, VA. In WWII he served as Junior Aide to MG Harry J. Collins, 42nd Division Commander. His sketches during combat, many of which have been published as illustrations to WWII histories, as well as the "Trail of the Rainbow" cartograph, which he created for the veterans just after the war are now greatly appreciated by every Rainbow Soldier's family member and descendant who asks to learn more about the experiences of their veteran during WWII. Copies of this colorful and interesting map have also been provided to teachers at their request for history classes.



Please visit his Memorial Page at Legacy.com

To receive an electronic color copy

of this HISTORIC cartograph, contact REVEILLE editor, Suellen McDaniel

As God gave the Rainbow to man, a sign of eternal promise, so have Rainbowers accepted it as their pledge in turn – that FREEDOM – EQUALITY – JUSTICE – and HUMANITY shall prevail. For all this, many of our comrades, under the tender coverlet of OLD GLORY, have been carried to the end of the Rainbow. In tribute to their service and sacrifices, these final words are said in farewell -

**“Comrades true, born anew
Peace to you!
Your soul shall be where
Heroes are
And your memory shine
Like the morning star.
Brave and dear, shield us here
Farewell!”**

Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, 165th Infantry 42nd “Rainbow” Division
From “Rouge Bouquet” 1918

Treading on Scorpions

RDVMF Chaplain (Col.) Eric Olsen, NYNG Joint Forces

In the Christian writing of Saint Luke, the author quotes his friend and Rabbi, Jesus as saying “I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all power of the enemy and nothing will injure you.” (Luke 10:19).

As I read this, reflecting upon fatigue, battle scars and losses of good people over the years, I find myself wondering what part of injury, did the Rabbi not understand. As State Chaplain for New York, I have recently officiated at the funerals of young Soldiers who have taken their own lives, others who wrestle with the horrors of war, still others who do not know who they are or which way to turn. Couple this with the nightly news and it seems that the enemy is at the gate and we are conducting a rear guard action.

It is at this time, that I am reminded that this human experience that we are all part of, is nothing new. Evil and the enemy are always at the gate. We know that loss and sadness are most keenly felt by the good hearted who are aware enough to know the difference. We also know, the battle is far from over. A strange dichotomy of faith is that if we love, we hurt. If we care, we are saddened, when we lose something meaningful, we grieve. In a miracle of faith, to feel, even to feel sadness, is indeed, to be alive and still in the fight.

It is with pity that I often speak to those who have grown cold of heart, callous of spirit and or cynical of this gift of life. These individuals have allowed the enemy to take the spirit of goodness from their hearts. They can be found on the slippery slope that leads to doubt, dread, fear and contempt all of which defeats the spirit and cripples the soul. I believe it is fair to grow tired, but never let it change our nature.

I believe that the Rabbi, Jesus, the Savior of the Christian Church, got it right. He understood that even in the most difficult of times, the gift of life is a “good” thing. We must always watch our steps and how and where we walk. He understood and shared that there are many things in this world that can bite and poison us, but if we have the courage to stand up against them, then nothing will harm our true self. Injury for the soul is when we allow the poisons from events or unfounded expectations to make us bitter, scornful or mean. That is the true injury.

The young Rabbi was all too aware that life has its cycles, that we only have so much time, energy and potential. He was also aware of how we face the life we are given means everything. If we take each day with dignity, grace and goodness no matter what, then we will show true strength, be safe and we will truly touch the divine.



RDVMF Chaplain
Col. Eric Olsen
New York National Guard
Chaplain, Joint Forces
photo courtesy of Department of
Military and Naval Affairs

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC. DEATHS REPORTED SINCE OCTOBER 2011

AFRICA , Robert G.	Co. B-232 nd Infantry
ANDERBERG , John J.	Co. L-242 nd Infantry
BALL , Allan H.	Btry C- 392 nd Artillery
BASKIN , Elliott A.	Co. B.-222 nd Infantry
BISTRICK , Charles H.	132 nd Signal Company
BOHANNON , Jeff P.	Btry A- 402 nd Artillery
CUTILLI , Oswaldo T.	Co. E-222 nd Infantry
DAWSON , Dewell B.	Co. F-222 nd Infantry
DEFALCO , Saverio A. “Sam”	unit unknown
DREW , Edward	Co. G-222 nd Infantry
EISENSTEIN , Morris “Ike”	Co. H-222 nd Infantry
EVANS , Kent E.	Btry B- 392 nd Artillery
FLORA , Robert W.	Co. H-222 nd Infantry
FOREHAND , Burlie	Co. M-242 nd Infantry
FOURNIER , Russell J.	HQ-392 nd Artillery
FUTCH , Walter L.	Co. B-232 nd Infantry
GARLICH , Edward J.	HQ-232 nd Infantry
GUILMET , Mike D.	Btry H-232 Artillery
HART , Carl Wilbur	Co. E-232 nd Infantry
HASSMAN , Louis E.	Co. D-232 nd Infantry
HEELAN , Thomas D.	Co. D-232 nd Infantry
HILL , Ed	HQ Co.-232 nd Infantry
HILL , Thaden	Co. B-232 nd Infantry
HOAGLAND , Robert M.	Co. C-232 nd Infantry
HORN , Earl J.	Btry B-392 nd Artillery
JACOVETTI , Dominic F.	HQ Btry-542 nd Artillery
LYNCH , Russell G.	Co. L-232 nd Infantry
MACFARLAND , Norris “Mac”	Co. B-232 nd Infantry
MACKECHNIE , Theodore R.	42 nd Div HQ
MAGRILIO , William “Bill”	Co. C-232 nd Infantry
MALAN , Edward	Co. H-222 nd Infantry
MCLEAN , Donald C.	Btry B-402 nd Artillery
MCIRWIN , Jess	H1B-232 nd Infantry
MEINEKE , Donald H.	Co. D-222 nd Infantry
MERION , John C.	Co. A-242 nd Infantry
MEYER , Jesse W.	Co. C-232 nd Infantry
MILLER , James K.	Co. F-242 nd Infantry
MONATH , Norman	132 nd Signal Company
MURRY , William B.	Co. A-242 nd Infantry
MUSCHLER , Robert P.	Co. B-242 nd Infantry
OLSON , Lawrence	42d Division Artillery
O’NEILL , Guy L.	H1B-222 nd Infantry
PETRILAK , Alex	Co. C-242 nd Infantry
PIZZI , Vincent	HQ Btry-232 nd Artillery
PRYZUCHA , John	Co. B- 232 nd Infantry
RENUZUELA , Alexander	Co. A-232 nd Infantry
RIGGS , Clifton M.	Co. A-232 nd Infantry
ROBERTS , Clarence F.	Bn HQ-232 nd Artillery
RUSSELL , Charles T.	Svc Co.-402 nd Artillery
SCHUMACHER , Raymond K.	Co. G-242 nd Infantry
SIMONSON , Carlton T. “Ted”	Co. I-242 nd Infantry
SOPALSKY , Joseph	Svc. Co.-242 Infantry
TAYLOR , John “Jerry”	Co. E-232 nd Infantry
THOMPSON , Charles T.	Cos. B&C-232 nd Infantry
THROOP , Alton W.	Co. A-232 nd Infantry
TUCKEY , Gareth W. “Gary”	Co. E-222 nd Infantry
VERVINCK , Harold R.	HQ-542 nd Artillery
WOOD , Rudolph A.	H1B-242 nd Infantry
YANDLE , Herbert	42 nd Quartermaster Co.

**RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION,
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION August 15, 2012 - October 15, 2012**

FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND Gregory Wilk – 75.00 **FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND** Robert Henckel – 10.00; Denise Miller, for “Those Over the Rainbow” – 20.00; Donna Russell, for Dewel Ben Dawson, 50.00

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND Gregory Wilk – 75.00 **SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND** 242nd Chapter – 10,000, to be designated in the future; Millennium Chapter, 200.00 – for Ted Simonson; Lon Peck – 5,000.00

If you would like to make a contribution, please send your gift to the RDVMF Treasurer, Check payable to RDVMF and mailed to

BENJAMIN PETTUS 640 NE Lake Pointe Dr. Lee’s Summit, MO 64064-1367

Memorial gifts will be acknowledged personally and also in the next issue of REVEILLE. If you would like an acknowledgement of your gift to be sent to the family of the person whom you are honoring, please include their name and address when you send your contribution. All are gratefully received and acknowledged. You may also support Rainbow online through <rainbowvets.org>.

Please send Death notices for Memorial Publication and for our records to Foundation Secretary,
Melanie K. Remple 500 Campbell Lane NW Hutchinson, MN 55350-1123 <taremp@hutchtel.net (320) 587-1123

2013 REUNION/CONFERENCE TIME AND PLACE !!

THE 2013 MID-YEAR will be held in Norfolk VA 1-3 March. The MacArthur Foundation and Museum will be hosting us. Details on hotel arrangements and agenda will be published in the January edition of the Reveille and on our website. Board of Trustee meetings will be held on both Friday, 1 March and Saturday, 2 March.

THE 2013 ANNUAL REUNION AND CONFERENCE will be held in the Albany area again this year in the September/October timeframe. Specific Dates and Details will be published in the near future in the Reveille and on our website. There will be different activities and a fun filled agenda.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

For a Happy New Year in the spirit of the Rainbow, sign up a Rainbow buddy!

Please visit <rainbowvets.org> to access the information you will need to renew your RDVMF membership either online or by USPS; chapter and national contact information is also online. At-large membership (no chapter), options are \$10.00/annual dues and LIFE MEMBERSHIPS are now available as follows – \$50.00/LIFE for WWII Veterans; \$200.00/LIFE for all others.

For multi-year membership payments, please send dues of \$10.00/year to our Foundation Secretary, Melanie K. Remple.

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