



REVEILLE

2014 – A YEAR OF CELEBRATION OF THE 42D DIVISION’S HISTORIC SERVICE AND LEGACY

As you know, one of our stated goals as a Foundation is to maintain existing memorials and establish new memorials in order to preserve the Legacy of our Division and its Soldiers. In the near future we will have posted to our website the entire list and location of all 42nd Division memorials/monuments and they are numerous! Two such memorials exist in Garden City LI, NY; the other at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. These two memorials commemorate the mobilization and deployment of the 42nd for WWI and WWII and stand in recognition of the sacrifices of those soldiers and families. Now, we are pleased to establish new memorials at Fort Drum and Fort Dix, the site of the mobilization and deployment of the 42nd for the Iraq war. **This is the ten year anniversary of the mobilization of the 42nd for the Iraq war.** The RDVF unanimously approved the expenditure of funds to support the establishment of these memorials calling them totally in keeping with our Foundation’s mission. The mobilization and deployment of the 42nd for the Iraq war was the first call up of a National Guard Division for combat since the Korean War. **The 42nd was the first of only two NG Divisions called to duty for the Iraq or Afghanistan Wars.** It was truly historic and added greatly to the Legacy of our beloved Division. The 42nd occupied a large portion of North Central Iraq (the size of West Virginia!) which was home to some 6.5 million Iraqi citizens. The 42nd was the third US Division Hq’s to occupy the palace complex in Sadaam Hussein’s home town of Tikrit and was The US Hq’s that turned it back to the Iraqi people. **The 42nd Division was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation for its outstanding performance.** The memorial ceremony at Fort Drum is scheduled for June 28th. The Fort Dix ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Sep 13th. You can stay up to date on all the details by going to the RDVF website at www.rainbowvets.org and clicking on Events. We will post ceremony details there. **Finally, we are asking our members to donate to the Iraq Memorial Fund to help defray expenses.** Donations in any amount can be made by going to the website and clicking on Iraq Memorial Fund or mailed directly to our treasurer, Ben Pettus (address on page 8). While the Foundation can and will pay for all costs, donations will help keep our memorial funds available for the sustainment of existing memorials for the upcoming WWI anniversaries! Obviously we have many WWI memorials and monuments across France and we want to make sure they are all in good shape and representative of our Division’s legacy and its soldiers.

VOL. XCIII JUNE 2014 NO. 5

PUBLISHED ONLINE <RAINBOWVETS.ORG>

SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER, JANUARY, APRIL AND JUNE

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

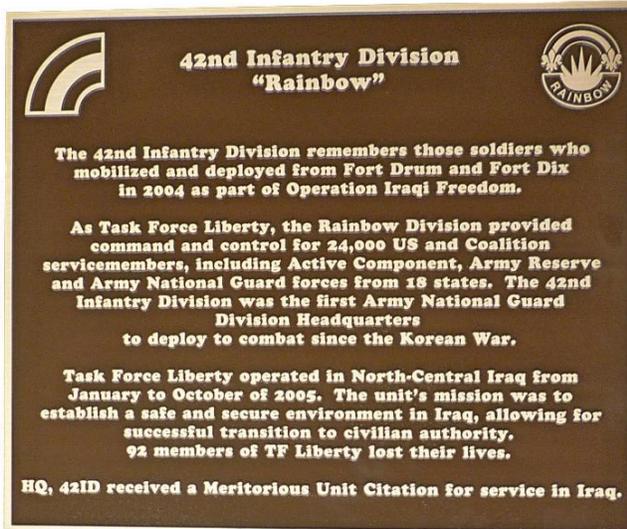
Greetings RDVF members! As I sit and write this article Memorial Day 2014 is just around the corner. Every Memorial Day is special and brings us thoughts of those that have left us. We lost some very special Rainbow veterans this past year and we will certainly miss them. This Memorial Day has some special meaning to many of our Rainbow Division Iraq war veterans. On June 28th we will dedicate the first of two memorials at Fort Drum for their service in that war. The second memorial is scheduled to be dedicated at Fort Dix in September. These were the mobilization sites for the Division in 2004. Please see the article on this page regarding these memorials.



I am also delighted to announce that General Frank Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau will be our Guest Speaker at this year’s Annual Reunion and Conference! General Grass accepted our invitation to help us celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the 42nd mobilization and deployment to Iraq. The Annual Reunion and Conference will be held in Albany, NY 5-7 Sep, 2014. Please see the article 2014 Annual Reunion and Conference in this edition for more details.

Finally, I want to let you know that much information is posted to our website regarding our programs, events and news. For example, you can read current and past editions of the Reveille online, see current news articles about the Division and its soldiers and see details about our Scholarship program (see article) and information on our newest committee The Center for Member and Family Support. Soon we hope to have a listing describing all our Rainbow Memorials around the US and overseas. Check it all out at www.rainbowvets.org. Have a wonderful summer and hope to see you at the September reunion.

RAINBOW, NEVER FORGET! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman



One of the plaques to be mounted on granite pedestals and dedicated at Fort Drum and Fort Dix. They were facilitated by RDVF Historian, Patrick Chaisson, who also provided this photo.

2014-2018 marks the anniversary of WWI. Preparations in France are well underway and the 42nd has been asked to play a role in the festivities on **26 July**. MG Wickstrom and his wife, Collette will be attending and representing the RDVF.

“We invite you to join MG Wickstrom to celebrate the 96th anniversary of the Battle of the Ourcq River

and the installation of the plaque of the RDVF on the site of the Rainbow Division Memorial at Croix Rouge Farm. This plaque was installed on May 27, 2001 by the RDVMF to commemorate the Battle of the Ourcq and the liberation of the town of Fère-en-Tardenois in late July-early August 1918. It is now being moved onto the site of the Battle of Croix Rouge Farm on 26 July.”

Dr. Monique Brouillet Seefried, President, Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation.

Deadline for the September issue is 15 August 2014

RAINBOW REVELLE

Official Publication of the

Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation
Published Since 1920

Founder & Permanent Honorary President

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur (Dec)

Permanent Honorary Presidents

Major General Harry J. Collins (Dec)

General Henri Gouraud (Dec)

Brigadier General Henning Linden (Dec)

FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

Joe Taluto

4937 Pacifico CT Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-8995
(561)429-6493 <talutoaq@gmail.com>

FOUNDATION VICE CHAIRMAN

Paul Genereux

392 NE Abaca Way Jensen Beach, FL 34957-4603
<pgener1798@aol.com>

MEMORIALS OFFICER

Paul Fanning

150 Thimbleberry Rd Malta, NY 12020-4377
<paul.a.fanning@us.army.mil> (518)899-8194

FOUNDATION SECRETARY

Melanie K. Remple

500 Campbell Lane NW Hutchinson, MN 55350-1485
(320) 587-1123 <taremp@hutchtel.net>

FOUNDATION TREASURER

Benjamin Pettus

640 NE Lake Pointe Dr. Lee's Summit, MO 64064-1367
<ben@a2mq.com> (816) 935-3020

HISTORIAN

Patrick Chaisson

508 Glen Avenue Scotia, NY 12302-1412
<patchais@aol.com> 518-374-1473

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Paul Sausville

202 Middle Line Road Ballston Spa, NY 12020-3304
(518)885-7145 (home) (518)786-4528 (Work)
<paul.j.sausville.mil@mail.mil>

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Paul Genereux

392 NE Abaca Way Jensen Beach, FL 34957-4603
<pgener1798@aol.com>

REUNIONS OFFICER

John J. Willsey

48 McDonald Dr Cohoes, NY 12047-1119
<john.j.willsey.civ@mail.mil> (518)237-1378

CHAPLAIN

Eric W. Olsen

304 Glenwood Dr Saranac Lake, NY 129832389
<Eric.w.olsen2.mil@mail.mil> (518)354-9999

LIAISON OFFICER

Richard J. Tisch

502 Fairmont Avenue Chatham, NJ 07928-1328
(973) 635-2559 <RJ17@comcast.net>

REVELLE EDITOR

Suellen R. McDaniel

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

Peter K. Towse

6499 Fremont Rd East Syracuse, NY 13057-9456
(315) 706-1094 <pktowse@gmail.com>

Vol. XCIII June 2014 No. 5
THE RAINBOW REVELLE

Published September, November, January, April, June

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS TO: REVELLE EDITOR:

Suellen R. McDaniel (address above)

REPORTING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Missourian Publishing Company

P.O. Box 336 Washington, MO 63090

c/o Angie C. Deaton <deatona@emissourian.com>

**PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL FILE
TO NATIONAL SECRETARY** Melanie K. Remple

500 Campbell Lane NW Hutchinson, MN 55350-1485
(320) 587-1123 <taremp@hutchtel.net>

Almighty and Merciful God – You have given us the priceless heritage of life; you have touched our minds with truth and our hearts with love. Forgive us that we ever in any way fall short of the best that we know. As we in Rainbow fought against world-threatening tyranny in World War I and World War II, so now give us the will and the means to make our world better than we have yet known. Keep always before us the slogan of duty, honor, and country; Our Country, under God, with Liberty and Justice for all. **Amen** *Norman P. Forde, Co. I, 222nd Inf. RDVA Chaplain, Reveille September 2001*



At the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial 29 April 2014, two local school girls carried the Rainbow Division Veterans

Foundation (RDVF) wreath in the procession accompanied by RDVF Honored member, Ludwig Stoeckl and his wife. Photos are from Ludwig Stoeckl.



JAMES R. "Jim" JOHNSON'S MEMORY OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU

By Jim Johnson The eleventh 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 Mesdag and Frank Burns, President, Pacific NW Chapter of the RDVF. Our shared project is continuing. Please contact **Frank Burns** for further information: (206) 527-0987 <frankdorothyburns@gmail.com> This speech is under copyright to the FFDP and will also be published on their website in the near future.

Photos below have been sent by Jim Johnson.



I am James R. (Jim) Johnson. I grew up in Norwood, Ohio. From the time of the 8th grade I wanted to be an engineer. **When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor I was in my second year at Ohio State University and in ROTC. We enlisted in June 1942 and were told that we would be sent in time to OCS.** Most of us assumed that would be shortly. Through a series of Army decisions many of us did not get to OCS until 1944. I was later told that in all the branches there were 60,000 ROTC folks waiting in line. I don't know how many Engineers were part of this delay. When I graduated from OCS I was first sent to a division that would have gone to Japan but never did.

I was sent to Europe. I requested the Rainbow Division on my arrival in Europe just before the war there ended. It was a great choice. I was traveling to my newly assigned division, the 42nd Rainbow, when the war ended. The division was headed for Munich and I joined them at Dachau. A week before that time the division had come across this infamous place, Hitler's first Konzentrationslager (1933). Its original purpose was to be a slave labor camp and as it grew it became an operation involving as many as several hundred satellite work camps scattered throughout southern Germany and Austria. (See [Dachau 29 April 1945 The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs](#), edited by Sam Dann). These camps were places where Hitler's captives were worked to death or near-death after which they were sent back to the main camp for their "final solution". Death came in many horrible ways at Dachau.

As our division moved post-war to Salzburg over a period of a couple of months, we came across a few of the satellite camps and provided whatever help we could give. In effect we were their liberators. Few if any of us knew at that time the overall concentration camp picture. I was in the 142nd Engineer Bn., Company A. It was the infantry that liberated the main camp and knew of the horrors there. We engineers learned of this segment of the Holocaust at those places.

One camp in particular remains in my memory. It was larger and had prisoners from all over Europe. It came as a shock to me, a young American, to find so many people who seemed to hate each other. They had in common that they were all victims of Hitler but they sorted themselves by nationality and mayhem often seemed to reign. A major need in this camp showed itself immediately. Their latrine (16 holer) was sickening even to approach. The holes were filled to the top. No one used this facility. I ordered a bulldozer to dig a channel and push it into the ground for burial. In a couple of days we had a brand new latrine built mostly by the displaced persons, "DP's", with our help. To my dismay on the very first day some were doing their toilet on the outside walls and a space next to this brand new building.

Food was difficult to find and this did not help the situation. It was hard to understand the ways of people who had been so dehumanized by Hitler's SS. This realization grew as we moved on and saw still more evidence of the Holocaust. Even a few weeks after we settled in Salzburg we found a small camp where the victims for the most part had been leaders in their communities. I gathered that they were considered dangerous by the Nazis for their possible influence in their home areas and thus were imprisoned. This camp seemed more settled but they had a huge problem with lice. Our platoon sergeant devised a "shower" that dusted on powdered insecticide as they walked through and pulled a string. They celebrated their freedom from lice by opening a secreted jar of black mushrooms.

I have often wondered what their future held. Did they finally get back to their homes? Or did their homes and villages even exist postwar. It was an awful time for these survivors.

I have been asked about encounters with Jewish prisoners. Like many of us then I was not aware of the terrible Holocaust and was not sensitive to the issue. I became aware later but in my encounters with the “DP’s” in the satellite camps I was more taken with the broad range of nationalities in the camps and the division among them seemed to be of nationalities rather than religious differences. I noted that by far the most people among those I ran across were of Polish origin. A humorous story in that regard was of a Polish DP we had picked up as we traveled toward Salzburg. He was doing KP duty for us and dressed in a soldier uniform. He had wandered out onto a local road one day as General Collins’ vehicle approached. Our DP had been trained to salute. The General’s vehicle stopped and backed up to the DP. General Collins said to him, “That was the finest Rainbow salute I have ever been given, Soldier!” Our DP had also been trained a bit in English: “No spik English.” I, of course, do not know the truth of this since it was told to me by one of our Rainbow soldiers who may have heard it from yet another. General Collins was known to be adamant about the special Rainbow salute and it had to be right!

My belief is that the important matter is the plight of the people who were enslaved by Hitler, their dehumanization, and the role of those who first found them at the end of the war. We ordinary soldiers were shocked and did what we could to help but that was with very limited resources. Most of us then went on to other duties and know little of what happened to those folks. Their lives, as Europe recovered over the next decade or so, may likewise be a set of individual stories yet to be told.

In late 1946 I returned home and have had a wonderful life with my dearest wife of sixty-nine years, our six children, thirteen grandchildren and now seven greats. Most of my career has been as engineer, scientist, inventor and educator. I must have done something worthwhile. In 1972, I was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. It has been a busy life and I’m still paying social security taxes at 91.



Saratoga Springs, NY - Richard Marowitz (I&R 222nd INF) shares his impressions as a Rainbow Division soldier who helped liberate the Dachau Concentration Camp in 1945. He spoke with a film crew from the NBC Universal Network which was developing a televised history lesson on the Holocaust to be broadcast to middle school students throughout the United States. This interview was filmed on April 29, 2014 -- exactly 69 years after the 42nd Infantry Division liberated Dachau. **Photo/caption by Patrick Chaisson, RDVF Historian.**

Rainbow Abroad: The Pacholtschenko Family **By Emily Marcason-Tolmie**

The idea behind the Rainbow Division’s name is to encompass soldiers from one end of the country to the other. When General MacArthur named the Division during World War I, it begs to wonder if he knew this rainbow would stretch around the globe.

Paul Patch recently contacted the Rainbow Facebook page with a story about his father and mother. His father, Wasyl Pacholtschenko, was a displaced person at the end of World War II. At the age of 16, Wasyl’s small town in his native Ukraine was occupied by German forces. Because of his strong physique, Wasyl was quickly sent to Germany for slave labor. Wasyl would never know what happened to his parents. The Red Cross of

Geneva believes his parents, farmers, were killed when their train was bombed as they and thousands of other Russians were being shipped to Germany. **It was the 42nd Rainbow Division that liberated Wasyl near Munich.** According to Paul, his father tagged along with the soldiers after his liberation and became friends with one Rainbow soldier in particular, John Sockolich. John took Wasyl under his wing and a lifelong friendship between the men easily formed.

Maria Schmidt escaped from

Yugoslavia ahead of the Russian invasion with her parents, three sisters and a brother. Her grandmother and aunt were not as lucky. They were sent to the coal fields. One was 80 and the other 79 years old. Maria’s grandmother died after only two days of work in the fields. Wasyl Pacholtschenko would eventually meet Maria Schmidt in a displaced persons camp in Salzburg, Austria. It is there that they married and spent the first two years of their marriage.

Thousands of miles away in Marietta, Georgia, Fred Wilson wrote a letter to the Displaced Persons Commission in Washington, DC. In his letter, he wrote that he would like to sponsor a displaced couple or family. He’d be willing to pay for their transportation and help in obtaining them employment and housing. Fred owned a 117-acre farm with two dwellings on his land. It was his hope that his inquiry would provide a displaced person or family with a home on his farm and mutually helpful for everyone involved. Very shortly after Fred sent his letter to Washington he received a response with numerous forms to complete. He gave his assurance that he would pay transportation fees, finding housing and would either provide or find employment for displaced persons. He listed his hope of sponsoring someone with farming experience. **On May 10, 1949, his application was approved. It wasn’t until the week of October 4 that he received a letter from the Travelers Aid Society of New Orleans advising him that his sponsored displaced couple would be arriving on the USAT General Leroy Eltinge on October 8, 1949.** Fred Wilson and his wife drove their car to meet the couple at the pier. After a long two-week journey the Pacholtschenkos arrived in America. Fred Wilson’s farm season was slow, as the cotton and sweet potato growing season was done. He contacted a friend and soon Wasyl was working as a maintenance man at an apartment complex, where he and Maria lived. To make their transition easier, Wasyl and Maria changed their names to William and Mary Patch.

The couple eventually made their way up north, settling in the New York City area and starting a family. In the years that followed, as if coming full circle, Paul’s family would have dinner with one particular Rainbow soldier during the holidays at his Brooklyn home: John Sockolich. Paul noted that John was a kind and generous man. It was because of John and all the other Rainbows that Wasyl was able to live his life in the way that he did. John passed away many years ago; Paul’s parents have also since passed away, Maria in 1986 and Wasyl in 2011. **However, the friendship that was formed overseas after the war was one that followed over the Rainbow.**

Paul Patch is asking if anyone can identify the three Rainbow soldiers behind his father in the photo to please contact Emily Marcason-Tolmie at emilymarcason@yahoo.com or the REVEILLE editor. Paul attended the RDVF Eastern Region reunion in April 2014





LAKESIDE CEMETERY, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

MEMORIAL DAY 26 MAY 2014

Wreath-laying ceremony for the 151st Field Artillery, 42nd Division WWI.

Photo sent by **SFC ADAM M. KELLY, MNARNG** Readiness NCO

E Battery 151 FA (TA) Anoka, MN 55303



EASTERN REGION REUNION

Ocean City NJ April 23-25, 2014

Standing from left to right -Master Sgt Peter Towse, Public

Affairs Chief; Stewart Hihn, WWII veteran HQ/222; Lt. Col.

Roberta Comerford, Public Affairs Officer; Nick Mattera, WWII

veteran M/222; Richard J. "Dick" Tisch, WWII veteran A/392 FA;

John Walker, WWII veteran G/222; Bud Gahs, WWII veteran AT/222;

Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, 42d Infantry Division Deputy Commander

Seated from left to right -Harold Melinek, WWII veteran,

42 QM Co. ; Frank Dippo, WWII veteran, 42DivHQ; David Bell, WWII veteran, HQ/222

Photo by Emily Marcason



PACIFIC NW REUNION Seattle WA April 25-27, 2014

From Barbara C. Eberhart, Nat. Aux. PNAP The Pac NW

reunion in the Seattle area was a huge success!!! There were about 38

people present at the Saturday night party. One new attendee was

Patricia Naumann, daughter of deceased veteran Quentin Naumann,

222nd H Company. Tim Weiss, son of Dachau survivors, David and

Elvira Weiss, and his friend Michael Meyers, Viet Nam veteran, joined

us for the banquet and the party. All were present when Tim Weiss

gave his presentation. After that, Scholarship winners spoke, updating

us on progress in their fields. Veterans present, most with family

members, were: Wilbur Miller, Don Carner, Lloyd Soule, Frank Burns,

Tom Humphries, Art Klein, Lloyd Oczkewicz, Roger Ford, Ralph

DiCecco and Dee Eberhart. Families included children, grandchildren

and one great grand baby. The Pac NW Auxiliary had their raffle, after

which the Cognac was passed and toasts made. **Photo by John**

Lavassar - **from left**, Art Klein, Lloyd & Betty Soule, Dee Eberhart,

Don Carner, Tim Weiss, Frank Burns, Barbara Eberhart, Wilbur Miller,

Tom Humphries, Ruby Miller and Ann Humphries.

TULSA/MUSKOGEE BREAKFAST MEETING

From Earnie Owen, past RDVMF Chairman and son of Arnold Owen,

M/242 - Wed 13 May 2014

Just a note about our Chapter here in the Tulsa/Muskogee area. While we

don't have anyone from Muskogee any longer, we are still meeting on a

monthly basis. This picture is from today's breakfast.

Photo From Earnie - from the left is Bill Butts 89, Dr. Forrest Jones 89,

yours truly, and Richard Hamilton, both Legacy members. Bill drives up

from OKC, a good two-hour drive each way. HIS father was a Rainbower in

WW I (William S. Butts, PNP). We have one other, Olin Hawkins 92, who

is in a nursing home. He was still coming until a couple of months ago.

Next month we are going to skip breakfast and go get him and take him to

lunch.



2014 ANNUAL REUNION and CONFERENCE ALBANY NY SEPTEMBER 5 - 7

This year's annual has some additional significance as it is the 10th year anniversary of the Division's deployment to Iraq. We hope that many of our 42nd Division Iraq war veterans attend this year's reunion and conference. If you are a 42nd Iraq Veteran notify another and let them know about the reunion! It promises to be special. Our guest speaker for the evening banquet Sep 6th will be the four-star Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen Frank Grass. Gen Grass sits on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and oversees our Nation's Army and Air National Guard. Gen Grass is very familiar with our Division and its history, especially the events of Sep 11, 2001. Gen Grass - then Col Grass - was the National Guard's head Operations Officer and worked very closely with the State of New York and the 42nd during its response to that tragedy. We are very excited to have the General with us to celebrate. On Friday evening Sep 5th we will have a reunion cocktail party that will have a special twist. **The full details for the annual will be posted to the website very soon. You will be able to reserve a room and/or register for events during the weekend on line.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Memories of an Eastern chapter RDVF reunion

By Andy Singer, son of Melvin Singer, G/222



I recently went to the 42nd RDVF Eastern chapter 2014 reunion. The reunion was held April 23rd to April 25th in Ocean City, N.J. It was my first time at this reunion and one I will not soon forget. I had a lot of time to think about and write these thoughts down while waiting at the airport for several hours after

breakfast and the good-byes on Friday. I was not sure what to expect when I decided to go to the reunion.

I had spoken with Harold Melinek and John Walker on the phone about the reunion and they were both very helpful in providing information and making sure any questions had been answered. **Thinking about why I went, there were really three primary reasons:** Firstly, I am working on a book about our WWII veterans and thought this would be a great chance to get first hand stories and ask these heroes some questions. Secondly, I wanted to learn more about my father, Melvin Singer, G/222. We lost him far too soon, but like all these men, he was a wonderful, loving father and I hoped to learn just a little more about his time in Europe.

Last, but not least, I wanted a chance to say thank you to these heroes for the life I have enjoyed. Without them, the world would be a very dark place and I would probably not be here.

What I found at the reunion was very similar to what I found at a lunch I shared with the 42nd RDVF Texas chapter this past winter. Only, these feelings were amplified due to the amount of time we spent together at this reunion. These heroes, this band of brothers, treated me just like family. I felt immediately at home and comfortable with them. We got to know each other and their families. We ate, we talked and we enjoyed a fun evening together in Atlantic City. I was humbled to be in the presence of these great men that did so much for us. They all share some great values such as family, country, duty and honor.

It was wonderful to see 42nd family members such as Dave Bell, Emily Marcason and others so involved with this chapter of the RDVF. **Sitting here at the airport I must admit I shed more than one tear, not just for my father, who is no longer with us, but for the thought that soon all of these men will not be with us.** They are the last of America's "greatest generation." It's important we continue to learn their stories and repeat them, so we can then share them with the generations that come. We owe them much and I think the best way to summarize what we owe them is with this story about an Honor Flight. Back in November I had the honor of being a Guardian on the Honor Flight out of Southwest Florida to Washington, DC. While pushing the veteran I was assigned to in a wheel chair around the WWII memorial, there were a number of people who stopped to say thank you to him. Yet, there was one thank you that stood out above all the others. A young couple, maybe 30, approached us. The girl spoke in an accent and asked if they could speak with the veteran. I said "of course you can." Then the young man got down on a knee to be level with the veteran and looked him in the eyes. As he shook the veteran's hand, he spoke in what was clearly a German accent and said **"Thank you for my freedom."** It was an emotional and wonderful moment for here we were almost 70 years after the war and this young German couple was thanking this American veteran for their freedom. If you did not already realize the enormity of what our WWII veterans achieved, this one moment crystallized the message that these men, our WWII veterans, not only saved our country from Hitler, they saved all of the world. **As amazing as what they did was, they remain humble, warm and generous.** They came back to America, had families, careers and built our country into what it is today, the greatest country in the world and a bastion of freedom. I feel fortunate one of them was my father and that all of them were on the side of the "good guys." And here we are today, sharing time with these heroes as the sun sets on their time. Let us never forget what they did and these moments we share with them. While I leave New Jersey with

some sadness and a few tears, I leave a better man for having spent time with these "giants of men." I will cherish and remember the time spent with the men and the families of the 42nd Rainbow Division. **Thank you for your service!**

A request - I have been collecting books written by and about the 42nd and their activities during WWII. I have new copies of Hold at All Cost, Dachau 29 April 1945/The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs and a used copy of Forged by the Furnace and the Fire written by Bob Maynes. I am seeking a copy of another book – The Furnace and the Fire/The Story of a Regiment of Infantry published in Austria just after the war ended. If you have a copy and you are looking for a good home for it, I am young (51) for a son of Rainbow and will give it a proper home. Please contact me at andy singer@yahoo.com or call Cell 978-270-2590 Thank you for the help and thank you for your service.

Photo from Andy – Andy Singer and John R. Walker, G/222

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DETAILS NOW POSTED ONLINE! Those interested in the RDVF scholarship program can now go online at www.rainbowvets.org, select the "About RDVF" tab at the top and select "Scholarship Program." All the details including the application are there!! We have revamped the program to better define who is eligible and how to go about applying. We have plans to grow this program in the years to come so that we can provide even more substantial grants to those eligible families of the RDVF and 42nd Division



DAVID BELL – MY RAINBOW TRAIL

by Emily Marcason-Tolmie, reprinted from the RDVF Eastern Region Chapter newsletter

David Bell chatted easily over the phone from his home in Maryland. He is quick to tell stories about his four children: Susan, Carol, Barbara and David. He is proud of his career as a home builder. His father was an executive at one of the largest real estate companies in Washington, DC. David grew up in Washington, DC, moving to Bethesda, Maryland at the age of 14. He said that his mother, a trained registered nurse, yearned for country living and more privacy. David's father agreed to commute to the city so that David, his brother and sister could enjoy "running around in the fresh air." David enjoyed country living, especially because his next door neighbor, Pat, would later become his wife of 64 years. His parents insisted that he continue his education in the city, and he graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. David's parents encouraged him to continue his education and go to college. David admitted that he didn't have very good grades in high school. David thought the Virginia Military Institute would be the right choice for him because his brother was already a cadet there. But, the Citadel in South Carolina was the right fit. In December of 1942, while a student at the Citadel, David enlisted into the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) – in the Enlisted Reserve Corps (ERC). David said because he was already enrolled in the Citadel he was put onto a wait list and allowed to finish his freshmen year at college. He said that he had a lot of friends while a student and being yelled at a lot prepared him for what was to come. **When the semester ended in late May of 1943,** David went home. On July 15, he received notice to report to Camp Lee, Virginia, located south of Richmond. It was there that David was issued his shots and uniforms. He was at Camp Lee for about two weeks. The Citadel had prepared the then 19 year old David. He was not homesick. Discipline had been hammered into every fiber of his life. After leaving Fort Lee, he went by train for a few days until arriving at North Camp Hood, Texas. It was David's first time in Texas and he remembers with a laugh that the state was very large. "We would look out the window of the train and ask each other if we were still in Texas," he said. North Camp Hood had infantry basic training. David remembered being there with about 10 other men from Bethesda. There were a few guys from Clemson, and a couple from Virginia Military Institute. He said that over half his platoon was made

of men from military colleges, which made their training different than those joining the Army as civilians. They were already ahead of the game, David said. He was in Texas for 13 weeks. Two weeks prior to the completion of the training, a recruiter came from the Army Air Corps. David was interested in joining the Air Corps. He was then sent to Sheppard Field in Wichita, Texas, to join the Air Force in January 1944. The rest of his platoon went to the University of Florida for their training. He went through another basic training, which included a lot of exercise.

They were being taught Morse code and were required to pass mental and physical tests. David was asked if he wanted to be a pilot, a navigator or a bombardier. His first choice, like most boys, was to be a pilot, followed next with his desire to drop bombs. Lastly, he would be a navigator. In the physical examination, David remembers being given a color blind test. The test was nicknamed the “Japanese test” because it comprised various little dots of all different colors. The colors were just slightly different in their shades. David was familiar with the test because he had been in the Army before the Air Force. He could determine that colors were different, but he admitted to having some trouble with distinguishing similar colors from each other. He tried to look over the shoulder of the man in front of him. When it was his turn and the Captain asked him simply, “What do you see?” David said he saw nothing. The Captain told David that he was not in the business of flunking good people out of the program. He gave David a pencil and had him trace out where the colors started to change on the graph. He passed David. However, as the rest of the testing process continued, it became apparent that David didn’t have the quick reactions needed to pilot an airplane and when it came time for assignments, he found himself as a navigator. However, David would never have the opportunity to fulfill his navigational duties aboard an American fighter plane. In March of 1944, the program was shut down. They were needed on the war front. David traveled 100 miles from Sheppard Field and became a soldier in the Rainbow Division. All of his buddies that had been studying at the University of Florida were assigned to the 94th Division and were sent to Europe about 4 months before the Rainbow set foot in France. Several of those men that David knew didn’t make it home. **David spent his first two weeks as a Rainbower in the 222nd Co G. He was later transferred to Headquarters and was attached to the I and R platoon (Intelligence and Reconnaissance).** His acceptance into the I and R was not official until David had gone through an interview process with the lieutenant. It became evident to David that being a part of this platoon took special skill. He was accepted and went overseas in the fall of 1944. He left out of New York on the SS Edmond B. Alexander. The Alexander was in the center of a convoy of ships heading overseas. David remembered being crammed onto that ship with about 5,000 other soldiers. It was a long journey with a lot of sea sick guys, David said simply. The boat arrived in Marseille, France in December of 1944. The soldiers were greeted with a frigidly cold winter and a rain that refused to let up. He celebrated his 21st birthday on December 14 in the mud of the Rainbow camp, about 5 miles outside of Marseille and into the hills of the countryside.

With the Battle of the Bulge raging, rumors of the battle spread through the Rainbow camp like wild fire. The I and R were loaded up into 7 jeeps out of the Marseille area. There were rumors flying that they were headed for the front lines. They ended up near Strasbourg, France. Strasbourg was strategically located on the Rhine River and across the way from Kiel, Germany – or the Siegfried Line. David remembered the towns having factories. He also remembered that the towns had each made a pact that they would not blow each other up. **David’s platoon was sent to Strasbourg to give support to the 3rd and 7th Armies.** They were there to fill in the gaps and stop any German penetration into the area. The first casualties to their platoon were friendly fire, David remembered. A jeep was patrolling late one night for the I and R. There was a tech sergeant and three privates in the jeep. The jeep rolled into a 3 or 4 foot crater that was in the road but because of the darkness was not seen by the driver. When the jeep rolled over, at first T/Sgt Minelli (a great NCO) thought his arm was broken. Later it was found that he had been shot by the corporal sitting behind him. When the jeep had rolled over the corporal’s rifle was not on safety and he accidentally pulled the trigger. Years later, David said, the T/Sgt went on to receive his PhD and was an administrator at Central Michigan College in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. **“The 1st Lieutenant who initially introduced**



Photo from David Bell – I and R platoon “taken around May 20 not too far from Munich. We were on our way to Austria to assume Occupation duties.” Front row, L-R Sidney Shafner, Dave Barr, Kay Kluz, Richard Laquess, Lyle Williams Back Row L-R Pete Piskos, Richard Marowitz, Dave Bell, Jim Egan, Larry Hancock, Custer Kilpatrick

me for the I and R at Camp Gruber was what was called a ‘Mustang’ – he was tough as they come but a good leader. A ‘Mustang’ was an officer who before being commissioned had been an enlisted man. He was outspoken and was shipped out to Italy as a replacement before Rainbow left Gruber,” David remembered. “The 1st Lieutenant that replaced our ‘Mustang’ was totally unqualified for his assignment and by pull got himself a cushy and safe job at Regt. HQ soon after we arrived at the front – we were glad to see him go. Our new platoon leader was also a ‘Mustang’ having gone overseas with Rainbow as a S/SGT in one of the Battalion HQ Companies. He was a good man and leader, although he was not familiar with how the I and R was supposed to operate he learned quickly.” That leadership also gave him a priceless gift. David’s brother was assigned to the 20th Armored Division during the war. David’s lieutenant knew that David’s brother was nearby during an I and R mission. The lieutenant returned to camp with David’s brother. The two hadn’t seen each other in two years at that point. David said he remembered it being a rainy night when his brother showed up with his lieutenant. They had a fun couple of hours catching up before his brother returned to his own platoon. **After Strasbourg, the Rainbow headed north.** People spoke both French and German. And as the Bulge ended, Hitler pulled his people south. As it turned out, he wanted to recapture Strasbourg. David said it was around this time in January 1945 that Rainbow suffered major casualties. The Germans began attacking from the Rhine River in hoards, and this put the Rainbow as the main line of resistance. For about five days, David remembered, things were very bad. David said that the I and R were lucky because they were not in the direct fighting. Many of them were radio operators in the fox holes, or were at the message center back at the regimental command. No one from their platoon was injured. **As they moved into Sultz, France, David said it was easy to tell who sympathized with the Germans and who sympathized with the French.** There weren’t a lot of people left in the town, so the platoon moved into a vacant house. There were 24 men and they all lived in a single home. “We just wanted a roof over our heads and it was a nice house,” David recalled. “It hadn’t been damaged by the war.” Most importantly, David said, was that the kitchen was operational. It was a welcomed break from the usual K-rations. **On March 31, 1945, the I and R crossed the Rhine River** and advanced some 30 or so miles with the 222nd Regiment and stopped when they came into contact with an armored division. “After leaving my jeep,” David said, “I was walking between two houses and I noticed a dead German soldier hanging half way over a fence, a grown man with several potato masher grenades shoved down the top of his boots.” An armored sergeant saw David and asked, “Who are you?” David said he replied Rainbow. The sergeant replied that David should be careful. “They had run into many die hard Krauts that day,” David said. “We returned back to our billets, worn out from being on the road since 3 a.m. that morning and flopped down to sleep. Less than an hour later we were aroused and told to find out how far the armored division had advanced since we saw them earlier; shortly after, we were on the road.” David said that this particular patrol in the

darkness, now April 1, in a small town (Vockenrot) they were ambushed by some 20-25 Hitler Youth, well dug in prepared trenches, armed with many automatic weapons. "I will not go into any detail about this action because it has already been described many times: we lost 4 men killed, 5 men POWs, 4 wounded of which we got all back later, save one. We were down from our T.O. strength of 27 men to 12 active now. Within two weeks with "reinforcement" we were back to normal size. **As winter became spring and the war dragged on, David and the others in the I and R soon found themselves about 20 miles away from Dachau,** the infamous town that housed a German concentration camp. On the morning of the camp's liberation, April 29, 1945, David and the others were told there was no enemy between them and the camp. The platoon left in the early hours of the morning, and using a road parallel to the main road, they began capturing wandering Germans. "Some 7 or 8 miles north of Dachau, we were joined by an American tank destroyer, which mounted a huge 90 mm cannon. We followed closely behind it (my squad only)," David said, "and as we came upon a few houses, an American Sherman tank suddenly appeared to our front, buttoned up not 100 feet separating the two. I heard and saw the tank destroyer 90 mm cannon swing 45 degrees to straight ahead and then fired. It hit the Sherman, penetrated some 3 inches of steel like it was butter. It caught fire and was still smoking when we left the area an hour or so later – all crew members within were cremated." David said that the tank destroyer was told, as were they, that there would be no Americans ahead of them on the road to the concentration camp. The main Dachau camp was surrounded by some 25 to 30 sub camps, which at this point were being taken over by the 45th Infantry Division and 20th Armored Division. All of those divisions also had tanks. "I think that some very aggressive tank commander (Americans) made a mistake by charging too far ahead and paid with his and his crew's lives. **As they continued to near the camp, they encountered a house full of Germans, David said.** It was a mad scene, he said. "Germans were running all around this house trying to escape," he said. They rounded up about 20 German soldiers and lined them up against the barn, he said. They entered the house to find an old man and his wife. She pointed to the basement and said that there were more Germans down there. "She said she was tired of fighting," he said. They rounded up the rest of the Germans with the others already by the barn. It was at about that time that David said he needed to relieve himself. He walked behind the barn a ways to some timber and found two dead German soldiers laying side by side both 30 -40 years old. Beside them was a very young boy, not 9-10 years old and very well dressed (in shorts) and very near death, shot multiple times and he died moments later. "Shortly before I saw these shot up bodies I came upon a bush and under it found one of the most lethal automatic German guns I had ever seen – brightly polished – almost like stainless steel with a long magazine of ammunition sticking out the side. Within minutes of this find, I came across a young American GI who I knew was the regiment designated 'executioner' – getting rid of any captives our interrogation people thought should cease to exist. I called to him and he said, 'Would you like to have this?' I handed it to him and he said, 'Gee, thanks.' I often wonder what this animal would do for a living once he returned to the states. **David said that there were some American soldiers that didn't treat the Germans humanely at that time during the war, or at all.** When they had passed through Wurzburg, there was a story that two German soldiers were captured by some Americans. It was said that the one German spoke beautiful English and the two had surrendered. Instead of walking the Germans back to the camp, however, they were shot. But, it wasn't just the Americans that could be cruel, David said. They had been doing an I and R mission when they came across a few Germans hanging from a tree over the road. One of them had a sign hanging around his neck declaring that he refused to fight. The sign was written in German. **David said that once he composed himself after the incident behind the barn, he returned to his platoon.** As they neared the concentration camp, he said it was hard not to miss the smell. David said that the platoon made it to the front gates of the camp, and the 45th Division was there as well, along with the Rainbow. After an hour or so, a man came to David and a few others and asked if they wanted a tour of the camp. "Not one of us guys went inside," he said. "We'd seen enough from where we had been standing." David said it was easy to see the suffering, the train cars with the dead very visible. "It was unbelievable that this could happen in Munich's backyard," he said. "None of us showed any enthusiasm to go inside that camp."

On April 30, Hitler committed suicide and later that day David and the others in his platoon headed for Munich. It quickly became evident that word of Hitler's death had spread and many German soldiers decided to not honor the oath they had taken. "Those German soldiers were tired, and many of them just wanted to go home like us," David said. "Every once in a while we could come across some Germans that didn't get the message that Hitler was dead and in the end they were killed too." But, for the most part, the end of the war meant just that for David, the end of fighting, the fear of dying and waiting to go home. **David spent the months following the war in Vienna.** The city was divided into zones of occupation. The war had destroyed some sections of the city, while other areas were barely touched at all, David said. He remembered seeing the frames of bombed out buildings, people were starving and many areas didn't have heat. It was David's platoon that was on coal detail. They would send jeeps out to get coal and then distribute it to the people. He said that most of the people he came into contact with in Vienna were nice people just trying to survive. The war was the common denominator for them all. No one really had a kind word for the Nazis, except for a handful of German and Austrian sympathizers. He recalled coming out of his platoon's kitchen one evening to see a few Germans begging for any food scraps. "Humans shouldn't have to live that way," he said. **David left Vienna in January 1946 and headed back to Germany.** In February 1946, David was notified that he would be going home. In March 1946, David headed to Camp Lucky Strike before boarding a liberty ship bound for the United States. When the New York City skyline finally came into view, David said he felt relief wash over him and he joined other soldiers as they hooted and hollered as they passed the Statue of Liberty. A memorable highlight of his homecoming was hearing the popular Andrew Sisters singing to them from nearby tug boats. After checking in at Camp Kilmer, David took a train to Fort Meade, Maryland. He said it was surreal riding past totally intact buildings after seeing so much destruction overseas. It was also heartwarming for David to see cheering Americans as the trains he rode on came into stations. "Everyone knew that each of these trains had returning military," he said. On March 28, 1946, David was officially out of the Army. "There was no way I was re-upping," he said. He returned to his childhood home. He was anxious to see his girlfriend, Pat. He had called her when he arrived in New York. Pat was a junior at the University of Maryland at the time. David went on to attend American University, all while he courted Pat. In December 1946 they married. **"Thinking back, we all moved on from the war quickly," David said, "we all just wanted to get on living our lives."**

RAINBOW CAPTURE OF SCHWEINFURT FLAG



A Letter from Tom Creekmore to the Rainbow Division

When the Rainbow Division captured Schweinfurt, Germany April 12, 1945, General Collins sent a 15 X 8 foot Nazi flag to the 8th Army Air Forces in England. Printed on this flag was the following:

"To the 8th Air Force – The Rainbow has avenged your losses at Schweinfurt". The losses referred to by MG Collins were the heavy losses of aircraft experienced by the 8th Army Air Force in bombing the ball bearing plants at Schweinfurt, Germany in 1943.

This flag has not been seen since May 1945 when it was given to the men of the 305th Bomb Group at Chelveston, England. I was at Chelveston the day this flag was presented to our Bomb Group. I want to find this flag so it can be displayed at the **8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia** to honor all of the men that perished and spent months in prison camps bombing the ball bearing plants at Schweinfurt. **I hope someone from your group will remember where this flag came from - City Hall, The Stadium or the ball bearing plant.** Also that someone knows something about the letter General Collins wrote, about the same date,

that he sent to General Spaatz, Commander of the 8th Air Force with the flag for the 8th. **For a number of years, we thought the 305th Flag was in a display case at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.** We have recently discovered this is another smaller captured Schweinfurt flag that General Collins gave to the **42nd Medium Bomber Wing of the 9th Air Force that gave air support during the fighting for the city.** This second gift was accompanied by a long letter from MG Collins dated 16 April 1945 on display in Dayton which begins, "On behalf of myself and every officer and man in the Rainbow Division I thank you and your organization for the splendid support given this division in the attack upon Schweinfurt..." **The printed inscription on THIS flag reads: "The Rainbow has avenged your losses at Schweinfurt in the summer of 1943. This flag was captured by the 222nd Infantry 42nd (Rainbow Div.) on April 12, 1945. Harry J. Collins, Maj. Gen.** If anyone has any information about this flag or the letter that General Collins sent along with the flag, I would appreciate hearing from you. Tom Creekmore 305th Bomb Group tcreeky@gmail.com (cell) 724 777 3991



NATIONAL AUXILIARY DEATHS
 (KY) **Christine S. Ledford**, (Charlie – 232 F.A.) an active member
 (TN) **Margaret Dickinson "Peggy" Fleming, "RAINBOW GIRL"**
 From Barbara C. Eberhart, PNAP 1999 and former editor of The National Auxiliary Bulletin – "Peggy was 2nd VP 1990/91; 1st VP 1991/92, and President 1992/93. At that time, she had just begun to attend the Auxiliary meetings, but for many years Peggy had attended reunions as "The Rainbow Girl."

[Peggy Dickinson Fleming was born at 11:45 PM on the night of 13 July 1918 as her father, an officer in the Rainbow Division, lay in the white chalk land of the Champagne, France, awaiting the final great drive of the German army to take Paris. In July 1943 in Tulsa OK at the 25th Annual Rainbow Reunion, in connection with the reactivation of the Division, Division Commander MG Harry J. Collins, sensed at once that she symbolized the close kinship between the old Division and and new. At the annual banquet 13 July 1943, MG Collins proposed that she be adopted by the new Division as "The Rainbow Girl." His proposal was immediately and enthusiastically accepted. [bio adapted from pictorial and review unit books from Camp Gruber, OK 1945.]

Barbara continues, "The WWI veterans loved having her with them. Her main job was to dance with the veterans. When Dee and I attended our first reunion in Tulsa, 1976, Peggy was there dancing. I believe that Peggy was the first "daughter" to be nominated and elected to hold the Presidential offices of the Auxiliary. She was pleased to accept the Editor job, and contributed WWI memoirs from her father's records." From Peggy's daughter, Margaret Hewgley, "Mom loved her association with the Rainbow Division. She lived a very full and long life."



Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation
croixrougefarm.org
For more information Regarding the July 26 ceremony.

WWII RAINBOW DEATHS REPORTED SINCE APRIL 2014

Ackerman, Lawrence H3B-232
Bosco, John S. Sr. I-222
Butt, Herbert A. A-222 RDVA Secretary and PNP
Carroll, Sam J. Jr., 242nd Inf
Dombrowski, Frank 132 Signal Corps
Dutmiers, Raymond M. A/T-242
Feather, Albert E. G-232
Ford, Harold Frank E-232
Kilmer, Richard E. Military Police Platoon
Knott, Paul M. H3B-242
Lohrstorfer, John HQ Btry-232 Field Artillery
Migliozzi, Joe 122 Med Bn
Papa, George J. HQ Btry-402nd F.A.
Rainey, Odell Cannon Co.-232nd Inf.
Vandzura, Clarence J. E-242
Van Giesen, Raymond J. 42D Div HQCo
Vincer, Frank H-242
Zander, Raymond A-692 Tank Destroyer Bn/222nd Inf

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOUNDATION MARCH 16, 2013 – MAY 15, 2014
FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND David Kingsbury, 10.- Reveille; Earnest Owen, 5.; Ernest Seinfeld, 100.; James Derry, 30. – Reveille; Esther Peirce, 50.; Charles Marionneaux, 50.; Joseph Taluto, 1,000.-Iraq Memorial; Ben Pettus, 500.-Iraq Memorial; Paul Genereux, 500.-Iraq Memorial; Joseph Fisher, 100.-Iraq Memorial; Mike Kelly, 50.-Iraq Memorial; Vincent Memole, 50.-Iraq Memorial.
SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND Glenn Wieburg, 50.-Lewis Kemry; Charles Borg, 750.-Dee and Barbara Eberhart Scholarship Fund; Esther Peirce, 50.; Michael Katz, 100.- Raymond Dutmiers.

If you would like to make a contribution, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, Check payable to RDVF and mailed to:
BENJAMIN PETTUS 640 NE Lake Pointe Dr. Lee's Summit, MO 64064-1367