



REVEILLE

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Rainbow Liberator, Daniel Gillespie, H/222, Meets Holocaust Survivor and Former inmate of Dachau Concentration Camp, Joshua Kaufman (R), December 2014 at Huntington Beach, California



In production at the time, with interviews of Liberators and Survivors of the Dachau Concentration camp in the United States, this film director introduced himself to us in a letter last November...

“My name is Emanuel Rotstein and I am a 35 year old documentary producer and director from Munich. Since 2010 I have been heading the original production department at the HISTORY channel in the German speaking territory. The focus of my work lies in documentaries and factual series with a historical background. My productions include, among others, "The Legion-German war in Vietnam", "The Eleventh Day-The survivors of Munich 1972" and "The Teacher Who Defied Hitler". These films have been broadcast in Germany as well as internationally with great success and have received a variety of awards. In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, I am currently developing a documentary film on the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp. In this film I would like to tell the story from the perspective of the courageous GIs who freed thousands of captives, brought an end to the Nazi terror regime and helped to build a democratic society in Europe.”

An article and photos of Rainbow Division veteran, Daniel Gillespie, H/222, has circulated around the world and a link was posted on the NEWS page of the Foundation's <rainbowvets.org> website: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/26/joshua-kaufman-holocaust-survivor_n_6527684.html

CAMPAIGNS

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE APRIL 2015

Members, hope the Spring weather has reached all of you that have had such a difficult Winter! We had to cancel our mid-year meeting and cocktail party due to weather but the board did manage to conduct its business via a conference call in February. Our Foundation continues to make amazing progress. Our financial investments are doing extremely well, membership continues to grow and we have met all our obligations with regards to memorial sustainment. **Scholarship awards money has been allocated for 2015 and we are now accepting applications. Check on the RDVF website for instruction.** We have also made some great progress on archiving and organizing our Foundation records. Look for new information on the website concerning where our records are located and how you can access them.



Our plans are set for the annual reunion and awards dinner. Aug 13-16 are the dates set for Newburgh, New York which rests in the beautiful lower Hudson River Valley of New York State and in the vicinity of the US Military Academy at West Point. Our annual will include a golf outing, a tour of the Military Academy, a tour of the 9/11 Memorial Museum in NYC and the Awards banquet in the West Point Club! You will receive an email with all the details soon instructing you how to sign up for the various events on the RDVF website.

Finally, when you receive this newsletter we will have at least three of our WWII Veterans on their way to Munich and the 70th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony of the liberation of Dachau. They and some 15 of their family members will be guests of the many organizations that participate in the annual event. A new museum room marks this special event and our veterans will be present. As always we will lay a wreath at the Dachau Camp Memorial itself.

RAINBOW NEVER FORGET! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman

From Don Williams, H1B/232 and Editor of The First News, January 2015

After seeing the photos of the reunion of the prisoner and the liberator, I remembered the Memorial program of the 77th Reunion in Little Rock on July 20, 1996. Dr. Daniel Fischer, who was a Dachau prisoner liberated by the Rainbow, spoke briefly to the meeting. His comments were very short, but were the most powerful and inspiring I ever heard. He said – ‘they saved my life, but that was not enough – they gave me food, but that was not enough – they gave me clothes, but that was not enough – they gave me medical help, but that was not enough – they paid my way to college, but that was not enough – they brought me to the United States, but that was not enough – they gave me a wonderful life of freedom, wealth and love, but that was not enough. They made me a citizen of the greatest country in the world and that is more than enough.’ There wasn’t a dry eye in the room.

His meeting with former Dachau inmate, Joshua Kaufman, is beautifully recorded and will be part of Emanuel Rotstein’s film documentary planned to be shown in late Spring 2015 on the History Channel.

This Photo of their meeting is by Frank Siering and is printed here with his permission. His original article, in German, is found here: <http://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/holocaust/holocaust-ueberlebender-dankt-befreier-39381488.bild.html>

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PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL

FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

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DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS (\$25/annually)

may be sent directly to National Secretary,

Melanie K. Remple, address above

Almighty and ever-living God, as spring brings new life to dormant plants and sunshine to warm our bodies, we ask You to give new hope to our weary and fearful world and to our anxious hearts. We thank You for the bountiful blessings You have showered on our beloved country. Help us to recover from our economic crisis and to create with Your assistance a world free of malice, terrorism and corruption. Keep us ever mindful of those most in need. May we be newly dedicated to the cause of freedom and justice for all.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

Reverend Robert F. Weiss, S.J.

*Company M, 3rd Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division
First published in the April 2009 Rainbow REVEILLE*

RUSSEL C. FIELDING'S MEMORY OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU, the thirteenth 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. The Photo below was sent by Russel C. Fielding, A-T Co./222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division.

PEARL HARBOR & BEYOND

By Russel C. Fielding Anti-Tank Company, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division.[February 21, 2015]



I am Russel C. Fielding. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, I was a sophomore at the University of Illinois, enrolled in the College of Commerce and Business Administration majoring in accountancy. At that time, all male students were required to take two years of training in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). I was in the Cavalry, and yes, we were mounted on horses.

I volunteered and enlisted in Advanced ROTC. I completed one year. In the Sixth Service Command, the Midwest, there was a massive call of Active ROTC candidates to Active Duty in 1943. I was one of them. The Commanding General gave all ROTC students with three years of training the rank of Sergeant. I went into the service as a Sergeant, three stripes. Because of a mix-up in my orders, I did not go with my ROTC friends to Fort Riley, Kansas. I was the only one ordered to Fort Knox, Kentucky for Basic Training in Armor, where I drove tanks and half-tracks and had the usual training in drill and weapons. I learned that my

Fort Riley friends were not allowed to wear their Sergeant's stripes. However, I was permitted to wear mine, and worked with a Regular Army Sergeant with many years of service. He taught me a great deal about command so I was fortunate to work with someone who did not resent my easy ROTC advance to being a Non-Commissioned Officer. Some did.

Following Basic, I was ordered to Officer's Candidate School at Fort Knox in Armor. Again, it was more training and classes. I graduated first in the class in June of 1944 and commissioned a Second Lieutenant. I was surprised to find my insignia was still the crossed sabers of the Cavalry. All the others wore the Tank symbol. Again, the Army fulfilled its reputation for surprises for two of our graduating class of Officers in Armor went directly to active units. The rest of us were sent to The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. Apparently, the casualties in the war were much greater in the Infantry than they were in Armor, so the Infantry had to have replacements; I was among the lucky (?) ones going to Fort Benning.

Finally, after a couple of months at The Infantry School, we received our orders to report to a real, operational unit. I had the good fortune to be assigned to the 42nd (Rainbow) Infantry Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. I went from tank to anti-tank for I was assigned to be a platoon leader in the Anti-Tank Company of the 222nd Infantry Regiment.

The Rainbow was in the line at Strasbourg, France by Christmas of 1944. The next move by my platoon was to Schweighausen in Alsace. It was there on January 25, 1945 that the German attack known as Operation Nordwind took place. My platoon CP (Command Post) was on the little street where the Germans advanced at dawn and surrounded us. It took a while to discourage them, and a few hours later they retreated into the Ohlungen Forest leaving their losses. My men did very well in their first real fire fight. Two Silver Stars, nine Bronze Stars and several Purple Hearts were awarded to the twenty or so men involved. Unfortunately, two men were killed and two were taken prisoner. Both of the POWs lived and returned home. One escaped the same day, but the other was confined in a German POW Camp deep in Austria. He walked out of the Camp when the guards took off as the Allies advanced into Germany.

Heavily outnumbered that day, the 222nd Regiment turned back the Germans. It was many years before the Regiment was recognized for what they accomplished. On the 10th day of January 2001, the 222nd Regiment was awarded the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY, 24 JANUARY 1945 TO 25 JANUARY 1945, signed by Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army.

This action took place while we were Task Force Linden. A week or so later we were relieved by another Division, and went to the rear to reorganize as the 42nd Infantry Division. All the support troops and Division Headquarters had arrived so we were complete again.

A Memorial Service was held as soon as possible to honor the casualties suffered since being in France. In respect, the soldiers had tried to improve their appearance. The result was incongruous with the faces clean and shaven and the uniforms dirty for they had been worn almost continuously since leaving the States. Their weapons clanked against the pews as they settled in their seats. The church was Roman Catholic. The service was conducted by a French priest so the memorial was in French and Latin. Not understanding the language was not important. The religious environment, the solemnity, the sense of loss, the communal spirit that pervaded was a tribute to the men who would no longer be with us. We were all aware that we had a long way to go before the War was over.

When next we moved it was as the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division. The route could be followed by looking for the Rainbow symbol painted on buildings at every major objective taken. We started on the upper reaches of the Moder River where it was a ditch about three feet wide. I had to leave the Company for I was ordered to Division HQ as a Liaison Officer because the movement was rapid enough to require additional help.

It was interesting to see the situation maps showing the front from the Netherlands to Switzerland. As a platoon leader your scope of the terrain and what the major units are doing is very limited. Your platoon and Company are your main interest. It was notable when the MLR on the big map moved across the Rhine River for the first time.

The job involved being briefed by the G-3 about the results of the action of the day, and the plans and objectives for the next. It was usually late at night, often midnight, when the briefing was over. Then we were given the plans, maps and overlays to deliver to the Regimental CP. I had a great driver, "Andy", Samuel E. Andrews from Tulsa, Oklahoma. We had to go blackout, using maps. If the Regimental CP had moved since the last visit, it became harder. The concerns were many. It was difficult to see where we were going, the possibility that we might meet a road block guarded by a nervous soldier with a strange jeep coming at him in the middle of the night, or driving down a road with no GI guards and ending up visiting the Germans.

We went through many small French and German towns, and crossed the Rhine on a pontoon bridge at Worms. I continued as a Liaison Officer as we took Wurzburg on the Main River, and as we went through Furth, a suburb of Nurnburg. I was then transferred back to Anti-Tank as the Reconnaissance Officer. I was glad to be back with my Company. **It was April 29, 1945 and we were headed for Munich.** Again there were small towns along the way and each surrendered without difficulty, but Dachau was different. There was no problem entering Dachau, but it held a horrendous surprise: a Concentration Camp. It soon will be seventy years since I entered the Camp.

I wrote about it in a story on the Sixtieth Anniversary of the liberation that was printed in the Rome, New York Daily Sentinel, it follows:

"It was not the largest German concentration camp. More prisoners were killed at other camps, but Dachau was the first. Around noon, our Assistant Division Commander along with a small group of Officers and men entered the camp. They were met by a representative of the Red Cross who was there to investigate reports of atrocities. The Camp Commandant, a Lieutenant who had been there only two days, surrendered to the party.

At 1300 the rifle companies entered and engaged the German guards still there and willing to fight. Soldiers from another Division entered the camp from a different direction and assisted in the liberation. Our Company was not part of the assault. I did arrive later that afternoon when the camp had been secured. I walked through the stone entrance. It is large enough for a truck to enter with a huge metal eagle and a Nazi swastika on top. In itself, it looked evil.

It had been a hectic few days at Dachau. The previous night the guards, knowing the Americans were approaching, killed prisoners. Some were deliberate choices, such as leaders, but others were killed indiscriminately. At times, the machine guns were turned on groups just to destroy them. Many of the guards then fled. During the confusion of the attack, groups of prisoners gathered in a manner that forced some into the electrified fence. They were killed at the moment

of the liberation. Other prisoners attacked their Nazi guards, beating them to death. Some of the guards fought our GIs to the end.

The camp was equipped as most of the other camps. Published photographs made their look familiar. There were barracks, cold and bare. The gas chamber was a large room with a pipe sticking out of the wall up near the ceiling. I stood alone in the chamber and looked at that pipe. There was a feeling of death in the room where thousands of Jews had breathed the gas and died. The cremation furnaces, made for the purpose, were ugly. The camp was out of fuel to run them so the bodies that had not been burned were stacked in the room.

The liberated prisoners were all about the camp. They were deliriously happy. Most were very thin. The first one to embrace me wore a prison uniform with wide, horizontal, dirty purple stripes. Other prison garb had vertical stripes, also dirty. My hand was grabbed. I heard "thank you" over and over again in many different languages. Outside the camp was a railroad siding. On it was a long line of rail cars, 40 & 8s. Our Division history, "42nd 'Rainbow' Infantry Division - A Combat History of World War II", said there were fifty. They had been brought from Buchenwald, another notorious camp. There was no food to give them along the way. There was no food at Dachau and no room either. They were left in the cars to starve to death. Some that tried to get out of the cars had been shot by the guards.

I walked from car to car. One cannot comprehend the feeling without having the experience. One prisoner had had his leg amputated just below the hip. The leg was gone. It must have been done along the way without anesthesia. The wound looked like a blunt instrument had been used. The other bodies were so thin they looked like skeletons covered with skin. Some were naked. None had warm clothes, and it was a cold April day. With about thirty to a car, there were 1,500 corpses. I should say 1,499 for a battalion commander saw one man move. He was immediately taken by the medics.

There was another scene that is still vivid after all these years. I saw stacks of shoe soles that must have come from prisoners who had been killed. With neatness and efficiency, typical of the Germans, the soles of the shoes with the uppers removed, were stacked in piles. One pair in one direction, the next the other. The pile went up and up. It must have been twice my height. With thousands of pairs, the pile was huge. I don't know why they were being saved. In a country with severe material shortages because of the war, they were probably going to be used again.

Since then, I have often thought about those shoe soles. How tragic to have the importance of your life degraded to a pair of beat-up shoe soles. The owners had disappeared, and the shoe soles were all that was left to show the significance of their lives. Many times that day I wondered how one human being could be so cruel to another. The cliché, "man's inhumanity to man", does not do it justice. It was bad enough to have friends in the platoon killed (KIA- in Army language), but this was depravity on a massive scale. It was heartbreaking and unforgettable.

It is hard to imagine how it feels to be freed from a place as horrible as Dachau. A beautiful tribute was written by Nerin E. Gun in his book "The Day Of The Americans", (Fleet Publishing Corporation, 1966). Passages follow: p. 19-20

"First GI at Dachau, we will never forget those first few seconds...You had come at the risk of your life into an unknown country, for the sake of unknown people, bringing us the most precious thing in the world, the gift of freedom. Today, I know your name. But to me, to all of us, all of us who became brothers in that short instant of liberation, you will always remain the Unknown Soldier, the myth, and it matters not whether today, in your garage in Minnesota or Wyoming, you scarcely remember the episode of that afternoon in the course of an almost endless expedition. Even if you should read these lines, you won't be able to understand what your brief appearance meant to us...But with a simple stroke of your magic wand, unknown GI of that twilight on the last Sunday in April, you changed all that. You made us suddenly understand that the world was still composed of human beings, that there were still men who were ready to give up their lives to save ours, without trying to strike a bargain, without asking anything in return."

Mr. Gun was wrong about one thing --- no one there can ever forget that day in April 1945. "

That night our Company stayed in the city of Dachau. There were some local residents on the street. They would not look at us or say anything. For the most part they stared at their feet. We took houses for billets, and the next day we were off to Munich.

It was not a long drive to Munich, and we had two jeeps. Capt. George Waters, CO of A/T was in one with his driver and Sgt. Wintrode, our First Sergeant, who had also been in the Rainbow in World War I. I was in the other with Andy. We went right into Munich. We were greeted with white flags, white sheets and towels hung over balcony railings. We stopped in a large square in the middle of the city. Except for an M-8 Scout Car a couple of blocks ahead, we were the only military there. It was very quiet.

While we were sitting there a young man approached us. His clothing was a mix of American and German uniforms. He wanted us to go with him for there were some POWs, and the guards wanted to give up. We were not very interested for German POWs were so common they were becoming a nuisance. We would head them toward the rear, and tell them to start walking. He was insistent, so with Sgt. Wintrode in my jeep, I had the stranger sit on the hood and followed his directions. We went into a heavily damaged and silent part of the city. After what seemed a very long time, we drove through a large brick archway, and into the courtyard of a brewery and stopped.

He asked us to follow him through a door and into an area with a circular stairway going downstairs. Now I was getting more apprehensive. When we got to the bottom we found a large room and our prisoners. They were Americans, about a hundred of them, one Air Force Officer and the rest GIs. Again came the emotional thank you's, but this time in English. "Thank you, Lieutenant, Oh, Thank you, Thank you." It was wonderful to have my hand taken by so many happy men.

We left to report to Capt. Waters and in turn he notified Regimental HQs. We did not see the men again. Our Company occupied a secure basement area that was the Air Raid Warning headquarters for Munich. There were large glass or plastic displays with all the large cities of Germany in place, so it was possible for them to track and plot the approach of the bombers and prepare their air raid defenses. We were there for only one night.

After Munich we continued into Bavaria. When the War ended in Europe we were approaching Austria. We went toward the Austrian Alps, watching the surrendered Germans driving by in convoys on the Autobahn. They were still arrogant and defiant and ready to keep fighting. Their high command had agreed to end the war, but obviously no vote had been taken. The beautiful views of the Alps and the clean air of the mountains still could not take away the memory of the stench of Dachau.

The Rainbow's occupation duty was done in Austria, a beautiful little country. We were the first Regiment to go to Vienna when it became a four-power city like Berlin. I was transferred to Regimental HQ and worked in the S-1 office with twin brothers, Captains Buddy and Buster Hart. Another Regiment replaced us in Vienna, and we moved to Linz, Austria. The main activity was getting the troops back to the States for release from service.

I had an unusual assignment about a year after Dachau. I was one of two Officers in our Regiment chosen to visit the International War Tribunal at Nurnburg, the Nurnburg trials. The Security Officer happened to be a friend of mine so I sat in the Press Box for two days. We listened to the proceedings with earphones that offered the choice of several languages. I saw the men who were responsible for Dachau and similar hell holes.

Hjalmar Schacht, President of the German Reichsbank was on the stand. More interesting was seeing a much thinner Air Marshal Hermann Goering with his white uniform, no longer a neat fit, hanging loosely over him. Most of the time Rudolph Hess sat with sort of a blank, deranged look on his face. All of the high German officials charged were in the court room. So I had the unusual experience of seeing the crime - Dachau- and the criminals responsible.

Much to my joy, my turn to go back to the States came in July. When I was discharged, my military record included the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, and Combat Infantry Badge. I agreed to be in the U.S. Army Reserve. Like many others, I thought if our country was in grave danger, I would want to help. After 39 months in the Army, it was back to finish my last year, paid for by the GI Bill, at the University of Illinois. The University had

a new airport and offered flying lessons. I had always wanted to fly so when I got my degree that year I also had a Private Pilot License.

Shortly after graduation, I received an opportunity to go to work for the Rome, New York Daily Sentinel. I thought it would be interesting so I took the job. It proved so, and I stayed for 39 years and retired in 1985. George Waters, my former CO, also worked for the Company. He became Publisher, and I became General Manager. We have had a great relationship that has lasted since we both joined the Rainbow in 1944.

An even more important relationship began in November of 1950. I met a music teacher. The attraction was immediate and mutual so we married February 3, 1951. About the same time the drums of war were rattling again. This time in Korea. I really did not think the situation in Korea was grave, but the U.S. Army did, and I was recalled to Active Duty on April 2, 1951. A great way to start a new marriage, but Darlene was a wonderful partner.

It was the usual with duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey in a training Division, the Ninth Infantry. Darlene was not impressed with the "Guest House" at Fort Dix. It was an old Army barracks with iron cots, and a women's latrine at one end of the building with the men's at the other. We got out of there as soon as possible and found an apartment in Mt. Holly, New Jersey nearby. Around Thanksgiving they decided I was ready for overseas. I received orders to go to Japan and ???. I will never forget kissing Darlene good bye in the airport in Chicago, and wondering to myself if I would ever see her again.

This time it was not the usual. I had the good fortune to be assigned to the Comptroller's office in Tokyo. I would have preferred to be home with my new wife. However, I had a good assignment. Along with the interpreters, I visited companies in Japan that had contracts to make war supplies to be used in Korea. We audited them for compliance. It was not like my previous experience in the Army. The interpreters became good friends, and I visited them in their homes. Tokyo was an interesting city, but I also visited Kyoto, Yokohama, Osaka and others. It was great duty, and a lot better than leading an Infantry platoon up the mountains in Korea.

After about eight months of cruising around Tokyo and environs, including a brief trip to Korea, the Comptroller apparently decided the responsibilities of the office were now under control. He released me to go home. This time I signed nothing, and gladly took my discharge from the Army. I had no trouble readjusting to civilian life. I have a foot locker full of memories, but I rarely open the box.

There was no combat experience on this tour of duty. There were some leftover from WWII. I still had the good and the bad, the serious and humorous, and they were embedded in my memory. None approached being traumatic, and syndromes were unknown then. But it is interesting the way events would return. It might be at a church service or a movie or while reading or in the quiet of the night, when they unexpectedly came calling. Like a rock being eroded in a swiftly moving river, they have dimmed in my memory, but there is still some rock left.

Since leaving the Army, I have had the good fortune of being able to enjoy the pleasures that a civilian life can offer. I had an interesting job that I liked, working with people I admired, and a Company that appreciated what we accomplished. Our marriage has seen 64 wonderful years. We have a son and daughter, and they each have a son and daughter. Family love is the byword, and we express it frequently.

I find it hard to believe that I have been so fortunate. I have a family to enjoy, all since the War. But during the War, I had three men wounded standing right beside me. The wound I received was treated at the aid station, and I returned to my platoon. It was a near miss with a fragment or shrapnel or who knows what. This is all with an appreciation for the much more difficult life of a Soldier in a Rifle Platoon. Having to get up and go into enemy fire time after time was really rough and dangerous duty. Theirs is courage to admire.

It is not only on Memorial Day that I remember the men we lost. To know the true cost of war, to see the monumental waste of life and material, you really have to experience it yourself. No national leader, worthy of the name, should ask men and women to put their lives at risk for anything less than protecting the very existence of our country.

Years ago, our grandson had a class project that included asking questions of a World War II veteran. Among the ones I received was "Why did you do battle?" After much thought, my answer was, "Love of family, love of country and love of freedom." I am glad our country stood for so much more than killing Jews to purify the Germanic race.

A NOTE TO DACHAU LIBERATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND DESCENDANTS From **Mr. Jaap Mesdag** – We're looking for WWII personal objects that relate to the liberation of Dachau that could be loaned to us for a display at the exhibition in the Verzetsmuseum (Museum of the National Resistance Against the Nazis). If such an item will lead to a "speech" from a proud relative, 2nd or 3rd generation, this may begin a new series in our project of collecting Dachau Speeches! The format might be: the object for exhibition, to which veteran it belonged, how this veteran was involved in the liberation of Dachau, how did he fare after the war and why does the relative who brings in the object on loan think it is important that the liberation of Dachau and the stories of the prisoners and their liberators should be remembered. This could lead to another exhibition with the stories of the former prisoners from the Namen statt Nummern (names instead of numbers) project since their biographies are written by high school students. **Jaap Mesdag, representative of Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners, The Netherlands**
To learn more, please contact Frank Burns, info above, or the REVEILLE editor.

A LETTER OF GRATITUDE TO THE RAINBOW DIVISION FROM HAN PEETERS, The Son of WIJNAND PEETERS



On April 29 2015 it is 70 years ago that the Dachau concentration camp was liberated by the 42nd Rainbow Division during World War II.

One of the liberated political prisoners was my father, Wijnand Peeters, Prisoner No. 110693 in Dachau. He was arrested by the Gestapo in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in June 1941, 21 years old.

He was part of a resistance group of 42 young men who were planning sabotage against the Nazi Regime. They also planned to escape the occupied

Netherlands overseas to England to fight against Nazi Germany; therefore, they had organized secret exercises in a nearby area. One day the whole group was arrested because of betrayal by one of the members inside the group.

My father was jailed in a local jail and after a period he was brought to Amersfoort concentration camp in the Netherlands. After a while he was transferred to Buchenwald concentration camp and from there on September 22, 1943 transported to an SS-concentration camp in the French Vosges near Strasbourg called Natzweiler-Struthof. On a flattened side of a mountain barracks were built. The regime was inhuman and horrific.

After a command issued by the Nazi general Keitel, all the political prisoners were labeled NN-prisoner - in Natzweiler that meant "Nacht und Nebel"; this resulted in that NN-prisoners must vanish between night and fog. In the aftermath of WWII the concentration camp was evacuated in a hurry and the prisoners deported.

My father and his Dutch fellow prisoners arrived in Dachau concentration camp in September 1944. About a half year later he and his Dutch friends were liberated by the 42nd "Rainbow Division" on 29 April 1945 a little before 18.00 hrs. My father and his fellow Dutch were very grateful and very happy - after the long period of captivity and slave labor, they were free at last. He was and stayed the rest of his life very thankful for the liberation by the Army of the United States of America, in particular to the 42nd "Rainbow" Division. **On the day of the liberation of Dachau, my father wearing his "zebra" prison clothing, together with his Dutch fellow prisoners were photographed by the American war photographer Lee Miller who was on that spot together with the liberators. [the portion of this photo spotlighting Wijnand Peeters, upper left, was sent by his son, Han]**

Back in Holland he married Rie Hartman in 1947. They had one son Han Peeters born in 1948 and they lived in Amsterdam. After his homecoming he started to pick up his work and become a graphic artist and painter. He was a member of the Sint Lucas painters guild from 1972 to 2005 and exhibited his work in the Amsterdam "Stedelijk Museum" and in Paris, France. He died on 23 September 2005 in Purmerend, a small city near Amsterdam.

This message is written by his son Han Peeters, who is married with Marja Breurken; we have three children and three grandchildren. Finally, we are all very grateful to the young soldiers of the Rainbow Division that liberated my father at the end of WWII because through that fact my family and I can live our lives to the present-day in peace.

Every year in April we commemorate the liberation of Dachau at the memorial monument near Amsterdam.

Yours truly, Han Peeters

Photo from Han Peeters showing Wijnand Peeters with an exhibition of his painting, "Judith."



OUR HISTORY IS IN YOUR HANDS

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian

"I found this old uniform. What should I do with it?"

As RDVF Historian, I frequently get asked this question. Sadly, those G.I.s who survived the horrors of World War II have now mostly "passed over the Rainbow". The photographs, stories and mementos they've left behind often face an uncertain fate.

Some widows, children and grandchildren, unaware of these artifacts' value, just discard everything. On the other hand, private collectors can pay handsomely for the contents of "grandpa's footlocker", but once sold these links to the past tend to disappear permanently.

Mostly, though, families usually keep their loved one's tattered snapshots and faded insignia. They don't know what to do with these relics, whether they have any value, or who might want them.

Important history is being stored away in attics and closets, at risk of being forever lost due to fire, decay or someone's carelessness.

Likewise, the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation has a significant historical record that must be preserved. Over time our group has reorganized several times. We have also seen several chapters close or consolidate through the years, a response to the changing nature of our membership.

What hasn't changed is the RDVF's commitment to preserving its history. In 1988 a forward-thinking group of men helped establish a network of repositories where the story of the Rainbow Division and its veterans' association can be preserved. Today, this academic network boasts a large and growing collection of 42nd Infantry Division archives available for current and future generations to study, appreciate and understand.

So what's out there? The best place to start is our newly-updated Foundation webpage, www.rainbowvets.org. Click on the "Archives" link (it's part of a red-lined list of options including history, news and the RDVF Store). This will take you to a list of our current holdings and where everything is kept. As more museums and libraries report their Rainbow Division holdings, we will post them to the RDVF website. Feel free to contact the RDVF Historian at patchais@aol.com if you know of a museum that displays or collects Rainbow history. We will add it to our web site.

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln maintains a large archive of Rainbow-related documents from 1917 through the mid-2000s. Their Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation records are located at the Archives and Special Collections, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries, P.O. Box 884100, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588.

Ph: 402-472-5076. <http://libraries.unl.edu/>

For those interested in the Rainbow Division's exploits during World War One, the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA, offers many interesting holdings. Contact them by writing the MacArthur Memorial, MacArthur Square, Norfolk, VA 23510. Ph: 757-441-2965.

<http://www.macarthurmemoial.org/31/Library-Archives>

A focused collection of World War II-related testimony and relics is maintained at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. As the 42nd Infantry Division helped liberate Dachau Concentration Camp, the museum welcomes first-hand recollections of this event. They can be reached by writing the USHMM at 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW Washington, DC 20024. Ph: 202-488-0400. <http://www.ushmm.org/>

The New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs, NY, interprets the 42^d Infantry Division's role as a Cold War National Guard organization (1946-2001). Staff there can be reached by writing the NYSMM, 61 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Ph: 518- 581-5100. Search their collection online at:

<http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/research/SearchCatalog.htm>

The newly-opened National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City features a small exhibit describing the National Guard's response to terrorist attacks on 9-11-2001. The 42nd Infantry Division was heavily involved in that effort. Reach them at 200 Liberty Street, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10281. Ph: 212-312-8800. Their website can be found at:

<http://www.911memorial.org/>

Interpreting 250 years of American military history is the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle Barracks, PA. Newly-installed exhibits combine with a world-class research facility there to offer something for everyone interested in our Army's past. They can be reached by writing the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-5021. Ph: 717-245-3972.

Visit them online at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/index.cfm>

Lastly, the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy, NY maintains a small historical collection. A catalogue of items on display here will be available soon. Those wishing to know more about this room may contact the RDVF Historian (me) at Patchais@aol.com.

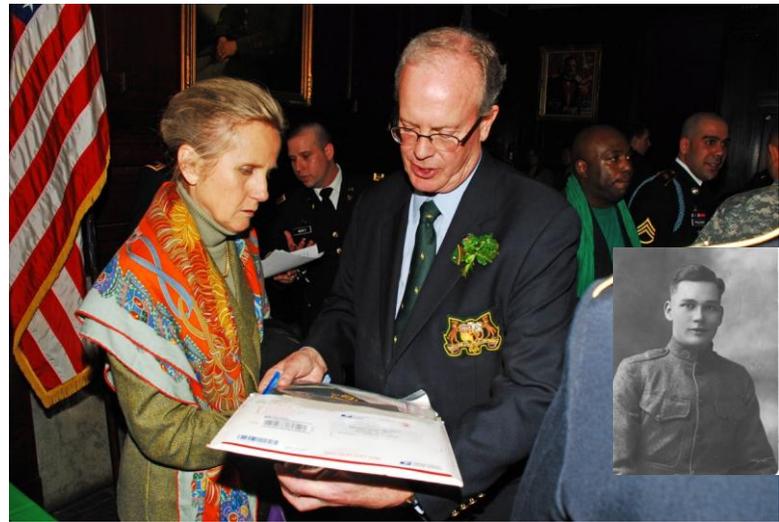
Now back to our first question: what should I do with this stuff? First, do you have documents (archives) or physical things (collections)? Archival donations can be sent to the MacArthur Memorial if it is directly related to the 42^d Division's role in World War One. For all other written material, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln is designated as the library where Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation historical papers are maintained.

I strongly recommend writing, emailing or calling the curator before sending documents to either of these institutions.

For physical things like photographs, uniform parts or war souvenirs, donors have many options. Selling them to a private collector might bring you a few dollars, but it's likely your item will go into somebody's vault never to be seen again. Donating artifacts to an accredited museum means your Rainbow vet's keepsakes can be viewed and studied by many people for years to come.

Many museums welcome donations. They likely won't pay for historical relics, but your contribution may be tax-deductible. Most states maintain a military museum; consider offering your loved one's mementos to a museum in the state where he or she enlisted. Depending on where and when your Rainbow veteran served, facilities such as the MacArthur Memorial, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, or National September 11 Memorial & Museum may be interested in receiving donated artifacts. Again, writing or calling the curator beforehand can help avoid confusion or misunderstandings.

The history of the Rainbow is a long and proud one. We are now making that history more accessible to more people than ever before, but need your help. Won't you consider donating a bit of your Foundation's history to one of the facilities listed above?



This photo shows Dr. Monique Seefried, a Commissioner of the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission, and a Director of the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation, and Bert Cunningham, Historian of "the Fighting 69th" on St. Patrick's Day 2015, receiving a Father Duffy Chapter cap donated through the RDVF Millennium Chapter by Russell Harbourne, son-in-law of WWI veteran of the 165th Infantry Regiment, Harold D. Paul, who wore it proudly! (inset) Photo by Paul Fanning, RDVF Memorials Officer



NEW YORK – A riderless horse from the 3rd Regiment of Infantry, the Old Guard, joins members of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry during the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on

Tuesday, March 17. The horse symbolized the 23 Fighting 69th Soldiers who lost their lives while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2004/2005 and 2008. The Soldiers of the New York National Guard's 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Sean M. Flynn, lead this year's 254th New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. This marks the 164th time since 1851 that the battalion, nicknamed "The Fighting 69th" since the Civil War, has led the world's largest St. Patrick's Day Parade. Photos by CPT Mark Getman, NYNG

**WWII RAINBOW DEATHS
REPORTED SINCE JANUARY 2015**

ANTINOZZI, Edward A.	HQ Co/232	Infantry
ARMSTRONG, Donald E.	HQ Co/222	Infantry
BARRESE, Anthony J.	H3B/242	Infantry
BENNETT, Robert Owen	H3B & B/232	Infantry
BORRON, James Don	K/242	Infantry
CLARK, Stanley	L/242	Infantry
DECKER, Denver	Cannon Co/242	Infantry
DOLAN, Thomas Francis	I/232	Infantry
DORSEY, Joseph	I/242	Infantry
DICKERSON, Floyd B.	A-T Co/232	Infantry
EDWARDS, Howard Lee	I/222	Infantry
FREEMAN, Darwin G.	B/222	Infantry
GARTH, Richard E.	42 nd Division	Artillery
HURD, Rollin L.	122 nd Med Bn	
JUDAY, George R.	F/222	Infantry
KRAHN, Arthur W.	H&Svc Co/142 nd Combat Engineers	
MELIKIAN, Clifford	I/232	Infantry
NIOLET, Emmet J.	Med Det/222	Infantry
PRITCHARD, Gene Austin	A/222	Infantry
RAMIREZ, Joseph L.	A/232	Infantry
RIGGS, James C. "Bubb"	L/222	Infantry
SCHAIBLE, Gilbert E.	G/242	Infantry
SCHMIDTMAN, Richard V.	G/242	Infantry
WRIGHT, Maurice E.	66 th Div/42 nd Div	

**WWII NATIONAL AUXILIARY DEATHS
Marjorie Eaton**

Wife of Gerald Eaton, F/242

Margaret K. "Peg" Igoe

Wife of John P. "Jack" Igoe, Svc Btry/392nd F.A.

Carol Quackenbush

Wife of Carleton Quackenbush, A-T/222



REMEMBERING TERI LYN DION,

Editor (May 1994 - June 2006) of *The Badge*, newsletter of the 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd "Rainbow" Division.



Teri Lyn Dion, a printer by trade and a tireless advocate for Rainbow, was the proud daughter of Gareth Tuckey, E/222. A businesswoman with many responsibilities in the Denver community and statewide CO, she also served in 2004 as the Vice President of the RDVF Millennium Chapter for families and descendants of Rainbow Division veterans.

In May 1994, when Rainbow veteran, Tom Heaton, G/222, retired from this position, she was asked to assume the editorship of *The Badge*, and remained editor until her death in June 2006.

The "Mail Call" section of each of the often 30+ pages of the bi-annual issues were mini-reunions, including reminiscences, opinions, stories, photos and personal news from the veterans for whom this special regimental magazine was often their only communication with one another. Teri made sure that it remained in the spirit of all Rainbow reunions, a connection of personal friendships won and continued through shared experiences.

In describing Teri's impact as editor, here is only one of the letters of appreciation - May 1995 from Sam S. Platamone, K/222 -

"Dear Teri, In prioritizing my thoughts, I want you to know how delighted I was being formally introduced to you at our

recent Louisville reunion. My first visual image after embracing you was that of Joan of Arc, championing the French cause several centuries ago. Much in the manner of the Maid of Orleans, you, too, have picked up a faltering standard; the current standard, of course, being our Regimental publication, *The Badge*. With you at the helm, I feel confident that our beloved 222nd Infantry Regiment will once again become the cohesive unit it once was, growing in size and polarizing more Rainbow men to our fold. Thank you for being the bonding agent to make all of this possible."

Teri's reply: "I will always remember the hug and the kiss you planted on my cheek at Louisville. It's meeting people like you that makes this job a joy. Thank you for your confidence."

The 222nd Chapter dissolved two years ago, is still active through its 222nd Infantry Rainbow Scholarship awarded each year and *The Badge* is still in publication, thanks to Editor Larry Hawkins, son of Olin L. Hawkins, F/222.

For information and to send him news:

badge222@embarqmail.com

**MEMORIAL DAY 2015
Monday, 25 May**

EXPOSITION PARK, Los Angeles CA 11:00 AM

From James G. "Jim" Davis, WWII Veteran of the 1204th Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon, North Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

"I was in Haguenau, France on New Year's Eve 1944, not too far from you. My Dad was 1st Sergeant Arthur C. "Top" Davis, F Company, 2nd Battalion, 117th Engineer Regiment, 42nd "Rainbow" Division, AEF, WWI. He chaired the committee that placed the memorial to the WWI Rainbow dead in



Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA. The Memorial Monument was dedicated on Memorial Day 1935.

This Memorial Day will be the 80th anniversary of that dedication. I feel it important that this anniversary be recognized by a brief service at the Memorial on Memorial Day, beginning at 11:00 AM. **It is my hope that you will be able to join us."**

The official designation of this Memorial is the Rainbow Memorial Grove and is located near the Natural History Museum at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Exposition Park, across from the University of Southern California. Take the Exposition Blvd. exit off the Harbor Freeway (110) and head west. Photo - "Top" Davis in center, "Slim" Sutherland on right; William Williamson on left; these WWI veterans raised the money for the Memorial.

Ed. Jim Davis may be reached for further information -808-242-1192 or email r11@hawaiiintel.net,

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION Contributions 1 January – 31 March 2015

FOUNDATION OPERATIONAL FUND Denise S. Miller, for CPL Irvin Miller – 50; Virginia Tuckey, for Gareth W. Tuckey - 10,000; James C. Clemons – 100.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND Virginia Tuckey, for Teri Lyn Tuckey Dion – 1,000; Mayland Crosson, for Joe Dorsey – 1,000.

If you would like to make a contribution by US Mail, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, Check payable to RDVF and mailed to RDVF TREASURER -

PETER P. RILEY 22 Almond Tree Lane, Warwick, NY 10990 – 2442

We may also support Rainbow online at <rainbowvets.org>.

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.

INTERVIEWS WITH RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS AT DACHAU APRIL 2015

One or more of the three WWII Rainbow Division veterans in attendance with their families at the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp will be interviewed by the NPR Central Europe correspondent to be aired on 29 April 2015 on either the Morning Edition or All Things Considered radio programs.

The German Public Television Channel (ARD) will also be interviewing Rainbow Division veteran Frank Burns, I/242, on 27 April to be aired on their Evening News program. These three veterans are

Frank Burns (242nd Inf.), James R. “Pete” Pettus (232nd Inf.) and Hilbert Margol (392nd F.A.)

Imagine a “Rainbow” stretching across the United States as General Douglas MacArthur had envisioned it when the 42nd Division was formed in 1917 from National Guard Units – and now, *imagine* a “Rainbow” of these three attending WWII veterans of the 42nd Division, respectively from the NW corner of the USA, Washington State, curving down through the country through Missouri to Georgia in the SE, representing the Division and the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADES IN THE NEW YORK/ALBANY AREA

<http://albany.kidsoutandabout.com/content/memorial-day-parades-albany-ny-area>

U.S. Army Colonel (Ret.) Daniel J. Travers will serve as Grand Marshal, while Canadian Reserves Major Christopher F. Cincio will serve as Honorary Grand Marshal at the **19th Annual Veterans of Lansingburgh Memorial Day Parade**. The Parade will step off at 11 a.m. May 25, rain or shine.

<http://www.troyrecord.com/lifestyle/20150406/marshals-named-for-memorial-day-parade>

Col. Travers’ service in the 42nd included his assignments as G6 for the 42nd “Rainbow” Division, serving in that capacity with the Division at the World Trade Center at Ground Zero in Manhattan, New York, and in Tikrit, Iraq at Forward Operating Base Danger with Task Force Liberty as part of Multinational Force North Central in the Sunni Triangle.