



THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE 29 APRIL 1945 LIBERATION OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP DACHAU, GERMANY



CAMPAIGNS

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE JULY 2015

Members, Family and Friends, hope you are enjoying a healthy and safe summer. **We are about to meet for the 96th annual reunion and awards dinner in Newburgh NY (vicinity of West Point).** We have a lot of social events planned. Go to the website and click on events to view them. I hope you can join in.



We have some exciting news to report. **We have begun a dialogue with the National WWI Centennial Commission regarding special events that will include the 42nd Division and our foundation.** WWI was the beginning of the illustrious history of the 42nd and our contribution to the War effort in 1917/1918 was significant; therefore, we will play a major role in WWI Centennial events in many states in the months and years ahead. **The Foundation plans to culminate the celebrations in 2018 with a staff ride on the Rainbow battlefields in France!** We are beginning to plan it now, stay tuned to the website for details as they unfold.

Finally, I want to thank our board members, the officers and many others that volunteer their time to this charitable foundation and for the camaraderie that we enjoy as we go about our business. We have truly moved the Foundation forward by growing our resources and strengthening all our outreach programs as well as our cornerstone Scholarship program for Rainbow descendants. Thank you all.

Rainbow, Never Forget! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman

Photos left column – Open Dachau Gate by John LaVassar; Rainbow wreath, presentation of wreaths on rainy day beneath the sculpture at the International Monument in front of Dachau Museum and Chancellor Angela Merkel speaking at the Commemoration are by Ludwig Stoeckl.

Photos right – Joe Taluto and Rainbow Liberator, Hilbert Margol (392nd F.A.) attended the May 5th preview reception of the exhibition “Opening the Camps” at the Liberation of the Camps exhibit at the Atlanta History Center.

Photo far right – Larry Rosen, Rainbow Liberator (542nd F.A.), standing on right and a Holocaust survivor on the left at the annual “National Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance” on April 16, 2015 at the D.C. U.S. Capitol, sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. This annual program honors Holocaust survivors and U.S. Army Division liberators of concentration camps. Photo by Larry Rosen’s son.



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DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS (\$25/annually;

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Melanie K. Remple, address above

RDVA Chaplain's Prayer first published in the June 1991 REVEILLE Rev. Norman Forde, Co. I, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division WWII



Lord God of Hosts, as we prepare for the 72nd reunion of the Rainbow Division Veterans' Association, we remember those ideals which we fought to maintain, in two world wars, and which we as citizens have continued to uphold and work for, the ideals of freedom and peace and democracy. We look with pride on the performance of the men and women who fought in Operation Desert Storm this year and who brought about such a speedy end to hostilities. Now we pray for the president and all those in authority who now grapple with the complex issues of the Middle East, which must be solved before

we truly enjoy peace. May the United States continue to be a ray of hope for all the world, as it has for so long. May all that we do be in accord with your will. **AMEN.**

[Ed.note- In July 1991, the National Reunion of Rainbow Division Veterans was held in Houston, TX]; photo sent by Joe Taluto, "new plantings at the 42nd Iraq Memorial at Fort Drum"; this memorial was dedicated 27 June 2014 in remembrance of those Soldiers who deployed from Fort Drum and Fort Dix as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2004) and Task Force Liberty (2005)

70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp A Report from Attending Rainbow Liberator, Frank Burns, I/242

Rainbow veterans Hilbert Margol, "Pete" Pettus and I were privileged to attend the remembrances for the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp at Dachau. In total there were only 5 American veterans there who were also present on April 29th, 1945. In addition to we Rainbow liberators, Don Greenbaum represented the 45th Division and Alan Lukens represented the 20th Armored Division. Alan is a retired U.S. Ambassador and delivered one of the principal speeches at the memorial. As the face of the Americans who had liberated Dachau, the five of us were in constant demand for TV and radio interviews, to be included in ceremonies and to talk to other liberators, ex-prisoners and their families. There was never a dull moment.

For the past 70 years, the top wish on my bucket list has been to return to Dachau. Its liberation symbolized the fall of National Socialism (aka Nazi Party) and the end of the war in Europe and I wanted to learn more about the camp and meet ex-prisoners and their families. I had also witnessed the start of the war for the United States as a civilian in Honolulu.

The trip became possible for me when my son-in-law, John LaVassar, was able to go with me and the Comité International Dachau (CID) offered to reimburse our travel and lodging expenses. The CID is the mouthpiece of the former Dachau prisoners from 37 countries, including Germany. It was founded by the inmates before the camp was liberated on 29 April 1945. Since liberation the CID has taken control of planning the camp's future.

John and I were fortunate to be invited to join the Dutch delegation to Dachau by their leaders, Sonja Arendse and Ivo Holtz. Sonja and Ivo are also members of the CID. Sonja's father was a prisoner who somehow survived many years in the camps. The Dutch delegation also included Jaap Mesdag whose uncle, Jaap van Mesdag was a Dachau prisoner. I have "known" Jaap from our many email conversations coordinating the speeches for the Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners (FFDP) that have been published in the Reveille and the FFDP newsletter over the past three years. Jaap is a member of the FFDP board.

Photo from Jaap Mesdag – left to right, Hilbert Margol, Jaap Mesdag, James "Pete" Pettus and Frank Burns.

Being with the Dutch delegation added a great deal of depth and understanding of the Dachau commemoration events for us. The delegation was made up of former Dachau prisoners and their families. We heard the stories of the prisoners' plight and their relief when they were liberated. It also provided a set itinerary, hotel reservations, transportation, meals and many German to English interpreters. On our first full day at Dachau we were pleased to find that Sonja and Ivo were already there. In spite of their busy schedule they took us on tours of the city of Dachau, the concentration camp and the "Concentration Camp Cemetery on the Leiten hill." It is known as "Leitenberg" and is on a beautiful forested hill close to the camp. It is where prisoners whose bodies were in the stacks of bodies on liberation day are buried. (read, killed) in the camp after October 1944 when the Germans ran out of coal and couldn't use the crematorium. There are many plaques and memorials at Leitenberg.

That night we had a special dinner that started in perfect weather on the hotel patio with Sonja, Ivo and Mario Kloostra. Mario's father was a Dutch resistance fighter and spent most of the war in the prison camps. He was the only member of his family who was not murdered by the Nazis. Mario and his brother were named after his father's prison mates who died in the

Camp. Dinner was delicious – meat loaf with potatoes and wine and finally, with a thunderstorm approaching, an amazing Apfelstrudel in the hotel tavern. The next night the rest of the Dutch delegation arrived. Sonja and Ivo went into an even higher gear keeping everything organized. Jaap found us within a few minutes. He added even more to our understanding of the commemorations with his knowledge of the area, Dachau history and ability to translate in real time. The first



people we met were survivors of the Dachau prison. One was **Henk (Henrick Van de Water) photo left**; the other was Ernst Sillem. Henk hugged me tightly and with damp eyes said, “You saved my life! One more day and I would have died.” My eyes were immediately wet also. I was back in

the war environment in a flash: fear of being a Japanese prisoner after Pearl Harbor; never seeing my brother, a cousin and an uncle again; destroyed cities; combat - and on and on. But above all, I was thinking of the stacks of bodies at Dachau and that Henk could have been one of them. After the Netherlands had been captured, Henk had the choice of working for the Germans or being sent to one of their camps. He was put to work on the railroad in Stuttgart but he resisted by sabotaging everything he could. When, repeatedly, a previously promised leave to Holland was refused, he decided to go AWOL and tried to escape to Switzerland. He was caught, sent to another factory to work, but refused to work. He was put in jail and sent to Dachau. When the camp was liberated, he was essentially dead from starvation and typhus. It was a month before he could even move but the American doctors saved him. Henk and I immediately became best buddies. From that point on, he and his wife, Ria, saved a place for me at all meals. It always included a tall glass of delicious Bavarian beer. We talked about everything you can imagine. After the fall of the Netherlands, Ernst Sillem became part of the Dutch resistance. There is still a slogan against Hitler and the Nazis that Ernst wrote on the walls of his high school secretly one night. The Nazis never found out who did it even though they investigated it like it was a murder. Ernst and his friend, Jaap van Mesdag Sr. thought they could hurt the Nazis more by going to England and joining the Allied military. So they escaped from Holland at night in a small boat with a small outboard motor and headed for England. However, the wind and waves soon swamped the boat. As they saw silhouettes of ships, Jaap took out the trumpet he had brought with him and gave the S.O.S. signal. One of the ships turned to them. They were rescued by the German Coast Guard and ended up in several prison camps before being sent from Natzweiler in France to Dachau.

Over the rest of the week we attended ceremonies and speeches that



remembered those who had died at Dachau, what the Nazis had done to the world and suggested paths that can be followed to keep it from happening again. On liberation day, April 29th, we attended an emotional ceremony that was a tribute to the Dutch prisoners and their suffering. It started

at the Protestant Church of Reconciliation with speeches, beautiful music and a candlelight procession to Barrack #29, where many Dutch prisoners had been held. Then family members of the prisoners who have died placed wreaths there. John and I placed a wreath for Rainbow Division soldiers. **Photo of Ivo and Sonja placing a wreath, by John LaVassar.**

At an informal gathering at the end of this event I talked to the pastor of the church. He was very happy that his ecumenical mass included most Christian branches and Jews. He was excited that he was in touch with Muslims and had high hopes that they would join the services. He felt that if all religions understood each other and worked together it would go a long way toward preventing the formation of another group like

National Socialism. Another highlight was attending the opening ceremony of the new Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism in Munich. The new museum was built on the site of the infamous Braun Haus that was the national headquarters of the National Socialist Party. The City of Munich is sending a strong message that they set a very bad example for the world in the Nazi era and



they want it completely documented no matter how embarrassing. Now they are determined to set a good example on learning how to change the ways we humans treat each other. If we don't change our ways it WILL happen again. **Photo by John LaVassar – Frank and Jaap at museum** There is little doubt that Hitler could never have done what he did to the Jews, homosexuals, Gypsies, communists and others he didn't like if the general population weren't already prejudiced against the groups. Evidence that such an approach is necessary is that there were nazi activists protesting the opening of the museum and its location. On the other side there were also protesters protesting the protesters. For the opening of the exhibition, “The International Monument”, held at the camp, we liberators and ex-prisoners had front row seats. After the opening ceremonies the audience left the theater to view the horrible reality of prison life in Dachau as shown in the photos and stories of the exhibition. We three Rainbow liberators only got a few steps toward the doors before we were surrounded by people wanting to photograph and talk to us. The three of us were shoulder to shoulder in an aisle. Each talking to a different group of ex-prisoners' families. Then an ex-prisoner's descendant started to sing, “God Bless America.” After a few bars everyone in the vicinity was singing. There were a lot of quivering lips and moist eyes. At the end, it seemed like everyone left in the theater was singing and clapping. My most enjoyable interview happened after we left the theater and were viewing the exhibitions. I had been summoned to have an interview and was watching Pete Pettus finish his interview. I felt a light tap on my elbow. It was a very bright young girl about eleven years old. She said she noticed my hat with the Rainbow on it and wondered if she could ask me some questions. She stood straight just like the professional interviewers and asked super questions. I found myself looking for the cameras. Her father said that she was doing this as a school project. It was evidence that the Munich schools are serious about teaching their students everything about their heritage of National Socialism and the brutal camp in their backyard. I wanted to keep talking to her but with a much less gentle tap on the shoulder, I was told it was my turn to be interviewed and ushered away.

We visited a Dachau sub-camp, Allach Ausenlager. Many Dutch slave laborers had “lived” there. It had been a BMW factory that manufactured large numbers of military aircraft engines. The prisoners were worked long hours, were always hungry and by the time they were liberated were on starvation diet. We met a woman there whose family had been Russian refugees. She was a member of the nearby Russian Orthodox Church and John mentioned that his family tree goes back to Russian Orthodox priests in Alaska. He left the group with her to see the Church. She told him that her anti-communist Russian father had fought on the German side in their war against Russia. When he left the army he couldn't go home. Hilbert asked a few survivors the same question – “Where were you and what were you doing the morning of 4-29-45?” One woman survivor said that she was lying on a bunk platform, dying of typhus and malnutrition and was too ill to know what was happening. She kissed Hilbert on both cheeks and said, “if you guys would have arrived two days later, I wouldn't have made it.” A man who survived, said that on 4-27-45, he, along with almost 6,000 Jewish prisoners were ordered by a group of SS Officers and soldiers to go on a forced march towards the Austrian Alps. When the U.S. Army forces were close by, the SS Officers and soldiers drove off in their vehicles and the prisoners who survived the march were liberated at that time. *(Although only about a quarter of the camp prisoners were Jewish, Internet sites confirm that the march was mostly Jews).*

The American Consulate General, William Moeller, invited the American liberators and their families to his home in an exclusive upscale Munich neighborhood for a formal cocktail party. It is

a beautiful home that was purchased just after the war. Our scheduled travel from Dachau to Munich fell through but we got a taxi and Jaap



was able to direct the driver to the Consulate General's home. Also present were five Army and Air Force generals in full dress uniform, two of which were from the 45th Division. I noticed that one had a Combat Infantry Badge and commented on it. He said that life in combat had a major effect on his career. I assumed that having combat experience helped. It was the opposite; as he rose through the ranks they expected him to be able to utter a sentence without having to blEEP out half of the words. He is a real trooper. Consul General Moeller then introduced each of the five liberators who were then given the opportunity to speak. Hilbert spoke for our Rainbow group and emphasized that the 42nd Division accepted the surrender of Dachau. Don Greenbaum, the 45th Division veteran said, "Yes, we opened the gate for you."

Photo taken 5/2/2015 is from Capt. Kinder L. Black, COANG, Chief of Public Affairs, with permission-Liberators (sitting) Left to Right: 42nd Division - Pete Pettus, Hilbert Margol, Frank Burns; and, 45th Division, Don Greenbaum; (standing) Left to Right: Brig. Gen. Michael Thompson, Assistant Adjutant Gen. of Oklahoma; Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, The Adjutant Gen. of Colorado for Airforce; Major Gen. Robbie Asher, The Adjutant Gen. of Oklahoma; Lt. Col. Brey Hopkins, Commander, 157th Infantry Regiment, Colorado Army National Guard; Brig. Gen. Jerome Linoge, Assistant Adjutant Gen. of Colorado Air NG; Master Sgt. Neek, 45th (Thunderbird) Division

Until Sunday, there were many events that happened simultaneously in different locations so the crowds were reasonable. On Sunday all the events were at the camp. It was a historic day because Chancellor Angela Merkel was in attendance. She is the first sitting German Chancellor to recognize and support the services. To ensure her security a personalized pass was required to get into the camp but it was still very crowded and it was raining hard. Our bus got us to the ecumenical mass early but the church was already overflowing. Luckily, the room behind the altar had been saved for ex-prisoners, their families and liberators. As advertised, the leaders of the Bavarian churches performed a beautiful service. Chancellor Merkel was among many speakers at the service held at the Jewish memorial. As the crowd was exiting the large tent, Hilbert was able to shake hands and exchange greetings with Chancellor Merkel. After the church services Jaap led me through the massive crowd to a service at the crematorium. He is excellent at getting through crowds. I had a reserved seat about two rows behind Mrs. Merkel (As the Europeans referred to her). After that service Jaap was designated to carry the Dutch flag from the crematorium to final ceremony in the roll call area of the camp. I



headed for the ceremony on my own but was immediately stuck in the crushing crowd. First, I saw two of our new friends who are camp staff members pushing their way past me toward the rear of the crowd. They came back minutes later clearing the way for Chancellor Merkel who had also been stuck. They then came back and rescued me. In her speech,

Chancellor Merkel said: "...discrimination, marginalization and anti-Semitism can have no place here, they must be fought with determination and the full force of legal means." CID President, Pieter Diets de Loos, emphasized that Dachau was not a camp like Auschwitz where Jews were taken and immediately exterminated. Dachau was the first prison the Nazis built in 1933 just after they came to power. It was used for the opponents of their regime, so many of the first prisoners were Germans. Dachau was a work camp holding mostly political prisoners, including the heroic resistance fighters of all nationalities. The resistance fighters were sent to Dachau if they weren't killed while opposing the Nazis. The focus of the commemorations at Dachau and Munich are to "Never Forget" the prisoners' suffering and the evil Nazis' regime. It is also to thank America for liberating the prisoners and their countries. Most people who didn't live through the 1930s and WWII don't realize how close America came to not liberating the prison camps and countries. If America had entered the war just a few months later, England and Russia probably would have fallen before America could turn the tide of the war and the Nazis would most likely have developed the atom bomb first. For most of us who do remember the 1930s, today's international events are as Yogi Berra would say, "déjà vu all over again." However, if the approach being taken by the CID, the City of Munich, the German government and the churches can influence the minds of the people soon enough, the 1930s will not be repeated.

GERMANY – A JOURNAL

**By John LaVassar, son-in-law of Rainbow Liberator, Frank Burns
All photos are from John**

When my father-in law, Frank Burns, was offered an opportunity to attend a memorial week of events marking the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Dachau with all his expenses paid to Dachau, Germany I found myself dreaming about the possibility of going with him. In my dream, my middle school teacher Frau Grava appeared and I saw the German castle pictures she had on her classroom walls.

My wife, Gail, knew how much her father wanted to go and hatched a plan that she would stay with her mom and I would accompany Frank. Dorothy gave us her blessing and I got to work updating my passport and arranging for a substitute to teach my 5th grade class so I could take a trip of a lifetime.

On my way to becoming a teacher I earned a history degree at the University of Washington and my studies focused on World War II. This opportunity to be in Germany, face-to-face with both liberators and survivors is the type of experience guys like me live for. Our trip exceeded all my expectations!

We arrived in Germany and stayed in the Munich suburb of Dachau at Hotel Fischer. **Photo above – Frank and John at Hotel Fischer.** I think the best way for me to translate our experience is through my emails and texts home to the family of "Famous Frank" as he soon becomes known to his family. This is a compilation of email and text messages I sent my family, and of course Dorothy!



April 27, 2015 Hi Everybody, It's 10:03 A.M. here and 1:03 A.M. your time. Frank and I are in the midst of an amazing trip. We are so busy with interviews and meeting people. I say "we" but Frank is the one in the spotlight.

After the morning stories and planning our calendar for the week we were picked up and taken to the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. The German TV interviewer met us there and talked with Frank for 2 hours. The reporter will send a link to the completed story which will be only 2-1/2 minutes when completed. The enormity of the events that happened here are hard to wrap my mind around. While walking around the camp I found I was not too affected emotionally. I was observing Frank and the interview team on a beautiful sunny day. I wasn't overcome with emotion or sadness until I was standing by the huge Catholic memorial at the camp and a giant bell started to ring. The stories of the German SS methods were so cruel.

We are having dinner with Sonja and Ivo tonight. Many more Dutch are arriving tomorrow. More stories and more people will be joining us. Frank is a natural at interviews and so many people are commenting on

how young he looks. The new people he meets ask early on how old are you?

April, 28 2015 Good night to you - Und gute Nacht. Guten Morgen for us. We are just beginning our day. Both Frank and I have been sleeping pretty comfortably on our futon beds. Ich habe wie ein Bär geschlafen. (I slept like a bear!) It's raining now unlike yesterday.



NPR interview today! (photo above) Sonja just stopped by our room and dropped off 2 umbrellas and peppermint candy for us. Being included with the large group of Dutch gives us an opportunity to belong to a community and hear so many stories. To communicate with you my phone is connecting to what they call wee-fee here which is what we call wi-fi back in the US. **Inset photo PFC Frank Burns 1944-45.**

April 29, 2015 Guten Tag, Many of the Dutch group have arrived now. Today, I watched Frank meet Henk who is a 91-year-old survivor of Dachau. Ria, his wife, speaks English and told me Henk's story. She then asked me to translate to Frank while she listened and filled in when I didn't have it straight. Ria and I plan to become email buddies. Henk talked about starvation in the camp. He said his meal in Dachau was a bowl of water soup with a tiny bit of cabbage in it. That was all for one day. The next day it was one small piece of bread only, alternating each day and that's how it went until Sunday. Sundays were the best day because they got macaroni in the water soup. He said "bigger people died first." On a brighter note, I had "Fleischvogels." That's what my mom called them. Henk buys Frank and I as many drinks as we want - both of us. He doesn't speak English and he asks with only the words "bier?" "vine?"

April 30, 2015 Hallo! Today we are traveling by charter bus with the Dutch group. Up until today we traveled with Dachau-Gedenkstätte employees in company cars or were picked up by taxis. Can't help but feel important! This morning we attended the Dutch Memorial Service on the grounds of Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site at The Protestant Church of Reconciliation. The church was built of concrete and descended underground. The nave consisted of simple wooden benches and a small altar. The ceremony was spoken in German and neither Frank nor I understood any of it. Jaap Mesdag was our constant companion to all events and he whispered in Frank's ear to help him understand what was happening. Sonja organized an amazing live musical performance. It began with songs that resonated sorrowful melodies and ended upbeat and hopeful. Afterward, our whole group exited the sanctuary carrying candles and headed above ground and to the concrete foundation marking "Barrack #29". This barrack is where many Dutch camp workers lived and lost their lives. During this part of the ceremony floral sprays and wreaths decorated with ribbons were placed on the foundation.



Frank and I placed a beautiful floral piece from the 42nd Division. TV cameras were there to record the event as memorial words were heard from the survivors and their descendants. While trying to comprehend the sad foreign speeches I noticed tears flowing

from the eyes of those who understood the words. We then descended back down into the church where we were led into a meeting room across from the sanctuary set up for a celebration. It was a toast to Queen's Day in Holland. We drank a tasty orange liqueur (Holland's national drink) and had meats and cheeses. One young Dutch father, whose "minister grandfather" died at Dachau told me, "The most important moment was when Henk finished his speech at the barrack and then went over to hug Frank in the front row. It was a big moment for my twin teenage sons! They will never see that again." Tonight attended opening of The Munich Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism Museum. There were demonstrators demonstrating the event and demonstrators demonstrating against the demonstration. The ceremony was broadcast on München/Munich TV and being liberators, Frank and Hilbert were on television here.

May 1, 2015 Our group went to Allach today. Allach is a sub-camp where many camp prisoners worked building BMW engines until they starved to death. I met a woman who was not with our group and she spoke to me in English about her Russian heritage and said that she was a leader in her Russian Orthodox Church. I told her my great-grandfather had been a Russian Orthodox Priest in Alaska and she guided me away from the group to a nearby **Russian Orthodox Church**. I was a little nervous about being separated from the group, but she assured me they would not leave me behind. The church was beautiful and after a quick tour we exchanged email addresses so we could continue to communicate later and I could find out more about my Russian heritage.



May 2, 2015 Big day! Went to an exhibition at KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau Concentration Camp. Frank is a rock star here! He interviewed with Romanian TV plus a video interview here at Gedenkstätte Dachau which will be available on their website. He especially enjoyed an interview given a local girl who was doing a school report.

When walking with Frank through the museum I watched admiration in the eyes of the people. His 42nd Rainbow Division emblem on his baseball hat alerts people that he was a liberator. You can see they all want to talk with him. Many do! It can take a long time to walk any distance due to the frequent stops. At one point, a group of relatives of survivors started to sing "God Bless America" to Frank and the two other U.S. liberators. I got all choked up during that song. A young American girl stopped Frank and shook his hand, thanking him for saving her grandparents!

I heard I ended up on German TV because I was sitting between two liberators, Hilbert Margol and Famous Frank, at the televised museum dedication last night. Later, we attended a dinner reception to honor U.S. Military Liberators of the Dachau Concentration Camp at the home of the Consul General of the United States of America. Admittance was by official written invitation only! We heard a speech prepared for the liberators by William Moeller III and survivors spoke too. There was a buffet of meats and cheeses along with many beverage choices. Frank was so busy with photo shoots with U.S. military personnel, in full uniform, he never made it to the food table before our scheduled taxi picked us up.

May 3, 2015 Off to memorial service. Frank will probably shake hands with German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel today! Me too? What a day! Huge celebration and I was separated from Frank after the Ecumenical mass. I knew where Frank had



to end up so I headed for the **massive ceremony tent** which I knew had taken two days to be erected. Frank and I had watched the tent building progress as we were repeatedly going back and forth to Dachau

events. I only spotted one entry due to security so I headed that direction only to be told to wait to the side. I was surrounded by a sea of people holding umbrellas while the rain poured down on us. I soon came to find out many more people had shown up than could fit inside. After 30 minutes, we were allowed to move slowly towards the entrance. While we waited, VIP's were ushered through. When I was about 50 feet from getting in, the man in charge of letting people in said the tent was full! No! I was separated from Frank and thinking now I will have to wait outside in the rain without an umbrella. I decided to go around the tent where I saw a woman closing another tent entrance and I asked to go in. She looked at me noticing my Dachau Committee official badge hanging around my neck with the word "GAST-Freie Sitzplatzwahl" written on it. I said my father is a liberator. She said to follow her and she cleared a path. I was now a VIP being ushered through the crowd. I made it in! Once inside, I was alone with thousands of people listening with translation headphones. The survivor stories were so sad I could not stop tears from my eyes running down my cheeks. At the conclusion of the commemoration ceremony I found Frank and learned that he had an eventful time getting in, too. Frank didn't shake hands with Chancellor Merkel or find his assigned seat. His ever positive attitude was not shaken and he was impressed with the messages of the speakers. The huge crowds in attendance were not expected and many people didn't get inside. Those of us who did experienced an emotional afternoon of poignant speeches that all emphasized the importance of no nation repeating Germany's past history. We arrived home on May 4th tired but exhilarated. I'm still processing all that I learned from the survivors, speeches, sightseeing, and memorial events. It was a whirlwind trip and I made many new friends. As I think back on it all, I realize the most important part of the



trip was spending 10 days with my benevolent father-in-law. Frank is a humble and financially successful family man who stays positive even in difficult times. He will be 92 in July and is approaching his 70th Wedding Anniversary next year. He is a retired Boeing engineer

and his organizational skills are amazing to this day. While in Germany, he maintained a spreadsheet itinerary and we were always on time to a long list of events. Throughout the adventure I introduced myself as John and said, "I have been married to Frank's daughter for 30 years." I am very proud to be related to "Famous Frank" and lucky to be married to his lovely daughter.

Memorial Day May 25, 2015 Gathering at Rainbow Memorial Grove, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California

Remarks From WWI Rainbow son, James Davis, WWII veteran of the 1204th Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon –
"Good morning and welcome to the 97th annual California Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Day Service and the 80th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Rainbow Memorial Grove and the Memorial Monument in front of you. Thank you for being here to commemorate those brave men and women who gave their all in defense of



our freedom and our way of life from World War I down through the decades to Afghanistan...Prior to Memorial Day 1935, the Southern California Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans of World War I held that service in Patriotic Hall in downtown Los Angeles. Through the efforts of PFC Kenneth "Slim" Sutherland, F Company, Sergeant William "Bill" Williamson, E Company and 1st SGT Arthur "Top" Davis, F Company and chairman of the Memorials Committee, an acre grove in Exposition Park was dedicated as Rainbow Memorial Grove. At the west end of the Grove was a granite boulder bearing a plaque whose picture is

attached. The Committeemen were all members of the 2nd Battalion, 117th Engineer Regiment, 42nd (Rainbow) Infantry Division of World War I, AEF."

Present were children of three World War I Rainbow Division veterans and also one Veteran of the World War II Rainbow Division, David Cohen, a combat medic whose wife and several family members and friends attended with him.

The WWI descendants are Janice Littell Curry, daughter of Corporal Frank Littell, F Company; Josephine Lord Mosier, who served as President of the Los Angeles Chapter Auxiliary of the Rainbow Division Veterans 1976-1978, following in the footsteps of her father and mother, Otho Gilmore Lord, E Company, who served as LA Chapter President 1933-34 and Alma G. Lord, who served as LA Chapter Auxiliary President 1958-59, 1974-75 and 1979; James G. Davis and Annette Davis DeYoung, son and daughter of Arthur C. "Top" Davis, F Company. Also attending were family members and friends.

(photo by Boyd Krueger: three children of WW I Rainbow Veterans present on Dedication Day, May 30, 1935. They are left to right: Janice Littell Curry, James G. "Jim" Davis, son of 1st Sergeant Arthur C. "Top" Davis and Annette Davis DeYoung.

Also present and introduced by Jim Davis were The Head of the Los Angeles Outreach for the United States World War I Centennial Commission, Courtland Jindra; Captain Mark Garrett and Sergeant Adam Bender of the California Highway Patrol, who are responsible for the security of the Park, its features and its visitors.

Concluding his remarks, Jim Davis said, "Eighty years ago I sat in the audience as "Top" Davis, my father, and others dedicated this Grove and this Monument to the memories of those Rainbow Soldiers who did not return from the fields of France. Today, I join with you in honoring all of the men and women of the Division who have passed over their personal Rainbows and await our arrival in their land beyond the stars. Many who served chose not to share their recollections with family. I hope that is not so here. Your memories, good or not so good are priceless and must not be lost. With the Dedication of this Grove and this Memorial came a tradition of reading the names of the F Company men who gave their lives in France. With "Top" gone I will carry on his tradition from his copy of "California Rainbow Memories".



Thank you for being here today. Your presence honors all the Rainbows, past and present, and "Top."

WWII Rainbow Division veteran David Cohen, Company D, 122nd Medical Battalion of the 42nd Division and current President of the Southern California Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (RDVF) spoke of the Rainbow's liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp on 29 April 1945 and most eloquently about the need for more tolerance in today's world.

For further article and photos of this Memorial Service, please visit these LA Times pages –

<http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/small-gathering-of-people-sit-in-los-angeles-exposition-news-photo/474797170>

PRESERVING OUR FOUNDATION'S HISTORY IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian

In 1988, a committee of former Rainbowmen began the work of collecting historical documents from the 42nd Infantry Division and its various veterans' organizations. This committee designated the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) as our foundation's principal archive. The university's Archives & Special Collections, located in the Don L. Love Memorial Library on UNL's City Campus, holds a substantial collection of Rainbow Division history.

Recently I received a tour of this facility while delivering several boxes of records previously stored at the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters building in Troy, NY. These boxes contained many documents from Rainbow Division Veterans Association (RDVA) and Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (RDVF) chapters that have either closed or consolidated. All this documentation was valuable, but needed to find a more suitable home than where it was.

As described in the May 2015 *Rainbow Reveille*, I learned that the UNL Archives & Special Collections department welcomes printed

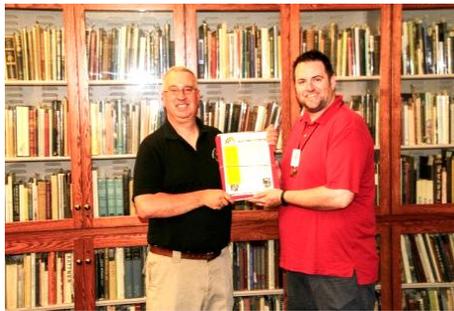
material from the 42nd Infantry Division and RDVA/RDVF. I then made an appointment to deliver what we had found at the HQ building, as well as a binder of papers from World War II Rainbow vet William Lahmann (A-542 FA) donated by his son, Jan.

Archivist Pete Brink of UNL met me at the Love Library loading dock, where we quickly transferred six bankers' boxes of documents into his custody. After moving these articles inside, Mr. Brink explained how his library maintains a wide range of manuscripts, records, and rare book collections in its two sprawling facilities. We then toured the repository where Rainbow Division collection is stored, a climate-controlled room that takes up almost the entire basement of the Love Library. **The heart of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Archives and Special Collections. These "stacks", filling the climate-controlled basement of UNL's Love Library, contain over 100 boxes of Rainbow Division printed matter and audiovisual tapes.**



I examined several carefully-catalogued artifacts, including handwritten accounts of the Dachau Liberation in 1945, as well as some priceless combat photographs from World War One. The archive also preserves video and audio tapes – I was surprised to find among the materials there a tape recording of the 1968 RDVA Annual Meeting.

I was told the boxes of documents that I delivered would be examined and catalogued by a team of archivists and student-interns, then filed with the other 118 boxes of individual papers, RDVA/RDVF chapter reports, scrapbooks and audiovisual records now stored in the Love Library's collection.



Pat Chaisson (left) presents a binder of 42nd Infantry Division historical documents held by former Rainbowman William Lahmann to UNL Archivist Pete Brink (right) in an impromptu ceremony held at the University of Nebraska 18 JUN 2015.

Pete Brink explained that his department's mission is to select, preserve, arrange, describe, provide reference assistance for, and promote the use of rare and unique research materials. Their extensive Rainbow Division holdings are an important part of the Archives and Special Collections, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries, and can be viewed by using their finding aid at:

<http://archivespec.unl.edu/findingsaids/MS104-rdva-unl.html>

For my part, the long drive to Lincoln proved to be an immense success. I left UNL's Love Library confident in the knowledge that our foundation's history is in a good home. I am also grateful for the vision of Rainbowmen like J. William Keithan (H/222 INF) who helped establish our system of archives over 25 years ago. And it was personally rewarding to report back to Jan Lahmann that his father's record of service has been preserved for future generations to study and enjoy.

The Archives and Special Collections, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries welcomes donations of printed Rainbow Division and or RDVA/RDVF materials. Contact them at E-mail: archives@unl.edu or by phone: 402-472-2531, Fax: 402-472-5181. Their mailing address is: Archives & Special Collections University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries P.O. Box 884100 Lincoln, NE 68588-4100. **Photos by Patrick Chaisson**

HISTORY OF THE ARTILLERY PLAQUE LOCATED IN CITY HALL AT WINGEN SUR MODER, FRANCE

By Richard Tisch, Battery A, 392nd F.A. Bn. Written 01/23/1999
Photo by Lise Pommois, Historian and Author

My wife Roseanne and I went to Germany, Austria, and France in June of 1989. During this trip, we visited Wingen Sur Moder, France, where I had been with my unit during the war. A/Battery howitzers had been in firing positions around the Laliqie glass factory from early February, 1945, until the 16th of March when the final 7th Army offensive began, and ended about May 8th.



I visited my old gun emplacement and later we stayed at the Hotel Wenk in town. The hotel had two Division plaques, one for the 79th and one for the 100th Division.

I was president of the Artillery chapter and thought that it would be appropriate if we had a plaque for the 42nd, as we had held the area for over a month. Subsequently, I had a plaque made listing the three Infantry Regiments and four Artillery Battalions with the dates in 1945 when we were there. Prior to leaving Wingen I spoke with the hotel owners and they agreed to hang the plaque in the lobby. It occurred to me later that the plaque should be a memorial or dedication to a particular event. So I wrote a letter, framed it, and sent it to Wingen to be hung with the plaque. This meant that there were two mountings which was not the best arrangement. They would have to be together to mean anything.

The plaque was made an official RDVA memorial in 1991 by the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation. Bill Barton was the memorials officer. I learned through Lise Pommois that the Hotel Wenk had closed in 1995 or '96. I wrote to the hotel but did not get a response. In 1988 the RDVA had an invitation from the French to go to Navarin Farms to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle at Champagne. This was when the Rainbow Division was in the middle of the MLR and stopped the last German offensive of WWI.

Not knowing if the Artillery plaque and letter still existed, I discussed the situation with Joe Smith, the president of the Artillery chapter. He agreed that we should have a replacement made. This time I had the plaque engraved with the information that had originally been in the letter. **The plaque is a designated RDVA/RDVF memorial.**

Lise Pommois contacted the mayor of Wingen and while we were on the Galaxy tour of Rainbow battle areas, it was arranged for us to go to Wingen and make a formal presentation of the plaque. Mayor Fenninger gave us a delightful wine and cheese reception at City Hall. He also gave us a 50th anniversary "En Memoire De La Bataille Hatten – Rittershoffen 1945-1995" fine graphic drawing. [A framed copy of this drawing now hangs in 42nd Division HQ at Troy, NY]

We all went to the Laliqie glass factory that was closed for vacation, but we roamed the grounds. Samples of scrap fancy glass became souvenirs. And for the last time I went back to my #2 gun emplacement, filled with nostalgia.

NATIONAL RAINBOW AUXILIARY DEATHS



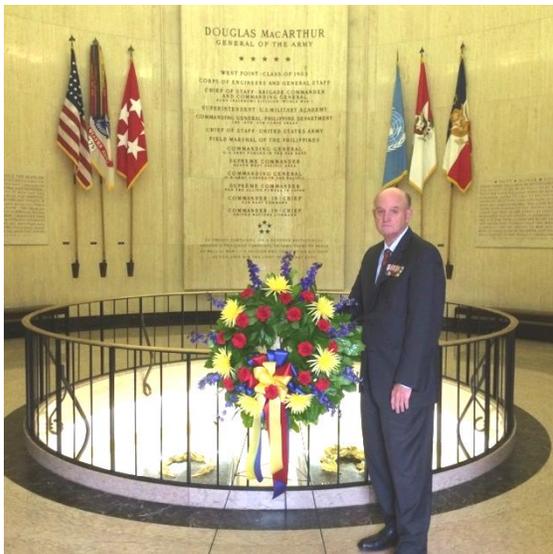
Reported Since April 2015

Rena S. Rundquist, wife of Ralph Rundquist, L/222
Mathilde "Tillie" Viola, wife of Bernard Viola, F/242
Marian Kracov, wife of Bill Kracov, M/232
Catherine Karadimos, wife of Peter S. Karadimos, H1B/232

RAINBOWERS IN THE NEWS !

RAY DEMING, Cannon Co./232 "Just a note: On May 1, I and 89 other WWII veterans flew to Washington, DC on an Honor Flight. Amazing trip. WW II Memorial took my breath away. Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Arlington) so touching. Vietnam Wall indescribable. Proud to be with fellow veterans. Returned on May 3 to 800 cheering well-wishers at the San Diego (CA) airport-the Welcome Home most of us never had.

JOHN PEDERSON, A/232 with two other WWII veterans, in a ceremony July 2, 2015 in Lakewood, CO was awarded his medals more than 70 years following his service as a rifleman and infantryman fighting in the battle of Sessenheim, France, when he was captured on Jan. 18, 1945. He was 19 and held the rank of corporal. He spent three months in German POW camps before he was liberated by the British military.



The legacy of General Douglas MacArthur and that of the Soldiers of the Rainbow Division, past and present, are linked in history and in service to our nation. Duty, Honor, Country - Gen. MacArthur gave the unit its very name, was its first Chief of Staff and third Division Commander during World War I.

The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation is the modern descendent of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association formed after World War I. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving our legacy by commemorating the deeds, sacrifices and traditions of Rainbow Division Soldiers and units through time. We do this by establishing and preserving memorials around the nation and overseas, and also through our ongoing educational efforts and programs. This simple ceremony today is part of that effort.

This wreath is therefore presented on behalf of the foundation, and is offered in remembrance of the man who led the way. This is also offered in tribute to all Rainbow Soldiers and Rainbow family members over the generations. We are certain that the General would approve. We are grateful to the MacArthur Memorial team for its dedication in preserving the MacArthur legacy along with the Rainbow Division as well. Thank you for your ongoing support.

RAINBOW, NEVER FORGET.

Major General (Retired) Joseph J. Taluto RDVF Foundation Chairman

On 14 July 2015, on the anniversary of the Battle of Champagne, France, the second Battle of the Marne, World War One, at the MacArthur Memorial, Norfolk, Virginia, Colonel William J. Davis, USMC (Retired), Former Director, MacArthur Memorial, placed this wreath. This message from RDVF Chairman Joseph Taluto was read during this ceremony. **Photo provided by the MacArthur Memorial**

WORLD WAR II RAINBOW DIVISION DEATHS REPORTED SINCE APRIL 2015

BAIRD , James E. unit unreported		LEECH , William H. G/242	Infantry
BARR , David L. HQ/222	Infantry	LIEB , Richard D. K/222	Infantry
BIRD , William J. D/242	Infantry	O'BRIEN , James E. SVC/222	Infantry
BRANNEKY , Oliver C. unit unreported		SMITH , Milton C. F/242	Infantry
BURNET , Lloyd E./232	Infantry	THOMPSON , Stuart M. E/222	Infantry
GAHM , George J. B/222	Infantry	WAGNER , Karl H. I/242	Infantry
HOOTON , Abel M/242	Infantry	WARDEN , Albert "Reese", Med/222	Infantry
JOHNSON , Frederick M. I/232	Infantry	WEST , William B. C/232	Artillery

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION Contributions 1 April – 10 July 2015

RDVF OPERATIONS FUND – Louis J. Lyell, \$200; **RDVF Scholarship Operating Fund** – Pacific NW Chapter, in Memory of Denver W. Decker (Cannon Co. 242), Stanley R. Clark (L/242) and Rollin L. Hurd (G/232)- \$75; Col. Michael A. Natali, for Philip Esposito (42nd Division HQ In Iraq), 100; Margy Rockoff, in honor of David Cohen (D/122 Med Bn), \$500; Arlene Rockoff, in honor of David Cohen, \$50; Leland Rockoff, in honor of David Cohen, \$500.

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>. All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged.