



REVEILLE

2016 ANNUAL MEETING IN TROY, NY

Members, Affiliates, Friends,

The 2016 Annual RDVF Board Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held in Troy, NY weekend of 9-11 September 2016. The weekend events are listed below. You can find the details and register for the Awards Banquet on line at www.rainbowvets.org. Select the events tab on the left of the homepage. Select details to see the info below and select "click here to register online" to register for the banquet. You will be directed to log into your account. If you do not have an account select create one as a non-member. Once logged into your account, Select "register for event" on the drop down menu at the top right of the screen and follow the screens from there. (Please select your dinner choice on the screen that shows "award banquet" drop down menu below your name. Selections are Beef (Prime Rib), Chicken or Fish. The cost is \$55.00 per person.

Friday Sep 9th: A reunion cocktail reception will be held Friday evening from 5-7PM for all friends and family of the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick St, Troy, NY. There is no charge for the reception and food. Cash bar. Please join us!

Saturday Sep 10th: The annual board meeting will be held from 9am-12 at the Hq's 42nd Div, Glenmore Rd, Troy, NY. The board meeting is open to all. Following the board meeting there will be a tour of the new **RDVF Heritage Room!**

Saturday Evening Sep 10th: The Annual RDVF Awards Banquet will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick St, Troy, NY. Cocktail Hour begins at 6PM. Light h'd'oeuvres will be served with cash bar. Seating for dinner at 7PM. **Cost for the Cocktail hour and Dinner is \$55.00 Per Person.** Please choose your dinner selection and pay on line by signing into your account. Scholarships will be awarded and our attending scholarship winners will make remarks. The 42nd Division Commander will give a report on current Division activities and has a special Military presentation to make!

For those that need **lodging** you may call the Hilton Garden Inn at 518-272-1700; however room availability is very limited and no special discount rate is available. We have, however, secured 20 rooms at the the Latham Holiday Inn, 400 Old Loudon Rd, Latham NY 12110. Rooms booked before Aug 9th will receive a special rate of \$99 per night. Group code is Association Code A. Phone for reservations at 518-783-6161. The Holiday Inn is close by and shuttle service to the events at the Hilton will be provided for those that want it. Shuttle service from the Holiday Inn to the Cocktail Reception and Awards Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn will be provided by the Hilton Garden Inn. Call 518-272-1700 for Shuttle.

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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 JULY 2016

All, hope your summer is going well. I have a couple of reminders for you. First please note the instructions on attending this years' Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. We are certainly looking forward to seeing many friends at the Reunion cocktail party Friday evening. Our Awards Banquet promises to be a special evening as well. We will be giving out our Scholarship grants and hearing from those that receive them. We also look forward to The Division Commander's report and a special presentation he will be making. My second reminder is to those that wish to compete for a scholarship grant. Hopefully by now your applications are in, if not, you still have a very small window to get them in to Mike Kelly, our scholarship chairman. Instructions are listed on the rainbowvets.org website.



I will be reporting on all Foundation business at the annual board meeting and will provide a synopsis at the banquet. Among the updates will be: The establishment of affiliate relationships with several organizations, some of which were former chapters of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association. Please check them out on our website under the Affiliates tab. In addition, I will report on the latest of The Foundation's involvement in WWI Centennial ceremonies in France! Hope to see you in September!

RAINBOW, NEVER FORGET! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman

1-69th Infantry Salutes Army B-Day in Times Square

NEW YORK--New York Army National Guard Sgt. Alexis Caceres (far left) and Spc. Tanner Scheible (far right) join Lt. Gen. Robert Caslan the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy; and Capt. Kelly Elminger an Army nurse and a member of the American Invictus Games team; in cutting the Army Birthday cake in New York's Times Square on Tuesday June 14 the Army's 241st Birthday. Both National Guard Soldiers are members of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry. The battalion supported the Military District of Washington's Army Birthday event in Times Square by providing equipment and Soldiers in battle gear to speak with members of the public. U.S. Army National Guard Photo by 1st Sgt. Robert Wolter



From RDVF Member Tim Hughes -

Fellow RDVF members. I just came upon the website. It looks great! I had the honor of deploying with 42nd Infantry Division to OIF in 2004. Pictured are myself and then LTC Phil Pugliese when we went on an advanced party coordination team to FOB Speicher, Tikrit. We were among the first Rainbow Soldiers on the ground to visit FOB Speicher and plan our transition with 1st Infantry Division. The picture was not doctored in any way. As we concluded our visit and waited on the tarmac a rainbow appeared in the sky over Tikrit. It was a good omen for a great mission for 42nd Infantry Division. I hope you will consider the photo for inclusion in the website / history of 42nd ID.



Questions may be addressed to our events coordinator John Willsey at 518-339-9547 or 518-496-2669 or email john.j.willsey.civ@mail.mil

Deadline for the OCTOBER 2016 issue is 10 OCTOBER 2016

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FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

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DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS (\$25/annually;

\$50.LIFE for WWII veterans; \$200.LIFE for all others)

may be sent directly to National Secretary

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Fr. Robert F. Weiss, S.J., (M/222) National Chaplain, RDVA

First printed in the Rainbow Reveille September 1983

Heavenly Father, Lord of us all, each summer we renew our spirits at our annual Rainbow Reunion. As we begin our new Rainbow Year, make us mindful of Your watchful care. Help us not to take for granted all the blessings we enjoy, our families and friends and our great country, this land of precious freedom, of rich resources, where we can live in peace and security and happiness. Let us not forget the heritage of fellowship and dedication that is ours in Rainbow. Help us to carry on this spirit of Rainbow, a spirit of hope and fidelity, a spirit of fellowship and love. Help us to contribute generously to this spirit by the way we live each moment of this year. In Your Son's name we pray. **Amen.**

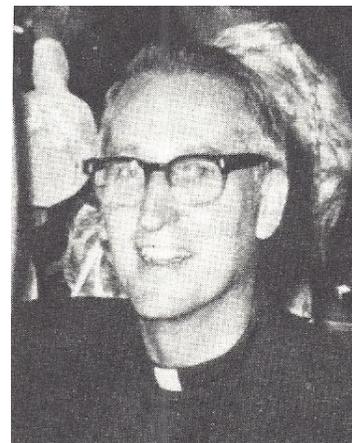


AT THE 71st COMMEMORATION (2016) OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP, APRIL 29, 1945, Mr. Ludwig Stoeckl, Honored Member of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, Inc. (RDVF) and his wife, Evelin, arranged for and presented the 42nd Division Wreath of Remembrance at the site.

Photos provided by Ludwig Stoeckl.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Emily Marcason-Tolmie's Interview With Father Bob Weiss in July 2010 during the National Reunion of Rainbow Division Veterans at New Orleans, Louisiana



Father Robert Weiss, or Father Bob to those who know him, grew up in North St. Louis, the second of four children. His father was the owner of a hardware store and Father Bob worked at his father's store during his childhood. "I think my father would have liked for me and my brother to have taken over the store," Father Bob said. However, Father Bob focused on his studies in high school, attending a parochial school on a scholarship. "This was during the Great Depression, so being able to go to high school with the help of a scholarship was very helpful to my family," he said. He enjoyed high school and thrived academically. And in 1943, at the age of 18, he entered into the Army, about to embark on one of his most difficult lessons.

After boot camp at Jefferson Barracks, he was selected to continue his education at the University of Kansas with the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). "I was only there a matter of months when the whole training group was reassigned to the Rainbow Division," Father Bob said. "So, I was off to Camp Gruber."

He was assigned to a heavy weapons company. One of his duties, while the other men in the company did field training, was to stay behind and act as a fireguard. "I had to clean the toilets and do other maintenance," Father Bob remembered. While he was doing these tasks one day, a sergeant from personnel showed up. "He asked me if I could type and write in shorthand. I really couldn't do either, but he said that I would do. From then on, I did all the paper work for our company and the first sergeant," he said.

Father Bob said that his company was part of a wave of replacement soldiers that were sent over to Europe in an attempt to fill the void of those seasoned soldiers that were fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. When they reached Strasbourg, Father's Bob's boss left his assignment for officer training. His vacancy in the 222nd Company M was filled by Father Bob. At the age of 20, Father Bob became the youngest first sergeant in the regiment and was suddenly in charge of 150 men. "I was in charge of keeping everyone in line and giving them things to do," Father Bob said. "Mostly, I felt like I had to keep everyone safe."

Father Bob remembered that the first mail he received from home was on Christmas Day 1944. "It sure was a nice distraction to get a little piece of home," he said of receiving the letters. "Getting reminders that life was still going on at home kept many of us going during tough times." Father Bob said it was hard not to miss a lot of the comforts from home,

Captain Tweed Shares His Story

By Dr. Vivian Blevins, Edison State Community College, Piqua, Ohio



Should those who have served in the military share their experiences with those of us who have not?

This is a challenging issue because unless we learn about veterans' service, we have a limited view of what war is and the prices it exacts.

Some report that their service in the military was the defining period of their lives. And there are those who steal valor, who claim to have served when they didn't, who claim to have won medals for heroic actions when they were in their recliners having a cold one and watching television while America's warriors were risking their lives in foreign lands.

Captain Robert Tweed, 95, of Troy, OH, was a member of the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge, and one of a team of three soldiers sent to Dachau after U.S. forces liberated this concentration camp on April 29, 1945. Captain Tweed shared his first-hand knowledge of this period in American history with members of Dr. Vivian Blevins' class in modern American literature at Edison State Community College just prior to Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Student response was positive. Mindy Bach said in a note to Tweed, "You truly are a hero. You have no idea how much I greatly appreciated you coming to our American lit class and sharing your stories. I know that it must have been hard for you to do so, but it meant a lot to me, as well as made it a lot more real. I hope you continue to touch others with great truths."

Tweed spoke of war in general and of a particular battle: "It's like a ballgame. Who kills the most people wins the war." Then, he spoke of an incident at Hatten after the Battle of the Bulge. He tells that his orders had been "Unload, dig in, watch out for the tanks, and hold at all costs." Tweed refused to hold at all costs because as he says, "We had no resources to hold off the Germans. I didn't want my men and me to be barbecued." Tweed and his men retreated to a place where reinforcements could handle the assault, the last aggressive action of the Germans on the Western Front.

Eighteen-year-old Savannah Harvey was given a large dose of reality when Tweed spoke of his division commander, Harry Collins, sending him and two others to see the horrors of Dachau so that it could not be denied: "50 box cars of men stacked like cord wood, all dead except one man. A sign that translated said, 'Work will make you free.' A large room marked 'Showers' where prisoners were gassed and open pits where bodies were buried when there was a shortage of coal. Rooms full of hair, clothing, shoes of those who had been murdered." Tweed paused and said, "I try to put those sights behind me."

Harvey wrote to Tweed, "I want to thank you for coming to our class to speak about World War II. Even though Dachau might have been a very difficult subject to talk about, hearing you speak about it really put things into perspective about what it was like for those prisoners there." Of another war assignment to take 200 Eastern European women and children from St. Johan in Tirol, Austria, to Vienna, Tweed suddenly is amused. In addition to the transport, he had been told not to let the Russians steal the train's engine. Each time the train stopped, some of those being transported jumped off and scattered. By the time Tweed

including something so simple as taking a shower. "I think it was 73 days before we were able to take a shower after arriving in Europe," he said. "The Germans could probably smell us!"

The war progressed, and Father Bob and Company M continued to move through southern Germany and were near Austria when the war was finally declared over. "We were all just so thrilled that the war was over," he said. It was after the war, while he was stationed in Vienna, that Father Bob was able to take leave to England. "That was a lot of fun," he remembered. During his time in the 42nd Rainbow, Father Bob was awarded the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman Badge and two Battle Stars.

When Father Bob returned home from the Army, he followed a calling he'd had since high school and entered the priesthood. He received his PhD in education and educational psychology in 1964 from the University of Minnesota.

Father Bob built a career in education administration, as Dean of Rockhurst College (now University) 1964 to 1972, President of St. Louis University High School, 1972 to 1977, and then back to Rockhurst University as President, 1977 to 1988. He has also lent his time to a variety of community organizations, serving on many boards both nationally and now internationally. Father Bob travels to Belize a few times a year as a member of the board at St. John's College. He has served terms as president and national chaplain of the Rainbow Veterans Association.

"I remember we had stopped for a bite to eat one day in a village," Father Bob said during his annual Catholic Mass at the National 42nd Reunion in New Orleans this past July. "I saw a buddy of mine sitting on the steps of a building and I was going to join him." As Father Bob walked towards him, a mortar went off, killing his buddy. "I had a hard time understanding why this happened to me, and why I had been spared," Father Bob said quietly. "In the end though, I had to rely on my faith to get me through."

It was that same faith that helped Father Bob recover from open heart surgery on May 7, 2010. "I wasn't feeling so well before the surgery, but I do feel great now," he declared as he sat in the hospitality room at the hotel in New Orleans with a big smile on his face as he mingled with his Army buddies. And anyone who has had the privilege of knowing Father Bob knows that his smile never seems out of place. "I am just so happy to be here."

In August 2010, Father Bob celebrated his 86th birthday and, with his health in good shape, he has no plans on slowing down.



Father Bob Weiss, age 91, passed Over The Rainbow on 9 June 2016. He was a Life Member who held numerous offices within the RDVA and RDVF, including RDVA President, RDVF Chairman, 222nd Chapter President, RDVA Chaplain and member of the Board of Trustees for both the RDVA/RDVF.

Father Weiss was an innovator suggesting many new ideas that moved the RDVF forward. He was a highly respected and

admired Rainbow WWII veteran. Last September, the RDVF recognized these contributions to Rainbow by Father Weiss through his many years of service.

After WWII, with several other members of his unit, M/222, he worked to make available a 13-page booklet dedicated to the men of Company M who gave their lives for their country, "The History of Mighty Mike".

His many other contributions may be found - <http://stlouisreview.com/article/2016-06-16/obituary-fr-robert-f>

Photo (top) from September 1976 Reveille; bottom left September 2015 from his home in St. Louis, MO with 2015 RDVF Award; printed in October 2015 Reveille

reached his destination, 150 of those being transported had left the train and two boxcars were missing. Tweed says, "In the marshalling yards when the train needed to be turned, men assigned to that task uncoupled and stole boxcars. I had been told, 'Don't worry if you don't get back with all the boxcars; just be sure to get back with the engine. So I stationed a soldier with a submachine gun in the engine compartment. Those attempting to take the engine pretended not to understand English, but they sure understood the machine gun."

Of the Nuremberg Trials following the war, Tweed said, "You need some order in war and after. Those men being tried were guilty, and they needed to pay the price."

Tweed was a marshal of a platoon of guards to maintain order at a trial in Salzburg of three Hungarians who had stoned and used a pitchfork on an American P-38 pilot who had parachuted from his plane after it was shot down in their small town. Local police sent the pilot to a POW camp where he died three days later. The three were sentenced to hang by a jury headed by a General Haines and 11 colonels. Tweed says now, "Maybe there was a reprieve. I hope there was."

Of those graphic accounts shared by Tweed, student Jon Dembski wrote, "First and foremost, thank you for your service. And your story. Words cannot express the appreciation I have for your courage and also your insights. As a young man I take your words to heart and thank you for showing a glimpse of history to our class."

Another student, Jesse Wall, told Tweed, "You truly are a hero, an amazing man. I have never heard war stories directly from someone who experienced it first-hand before. I want to thank you for taking time out of your life to come see us."

And student Jessie Jones wrote, "I could listen all day."

Tweed then shared the story of meeting his future wife, Erika, while he was in charge of a Displaced Persons Camp (a D- P Camp), and this resonated with Gabrielle Knouff who wrote, "Those stories are something that everyone should hear no matter how horrific they may be, but I especially enjoyed your love story!"

First-hand accounts of the heat of battle, the atrocious acts of war, the aftermath of war, and love. Should the stories be shared?

Tweed says, "It's nothing I would look forward to. I'm not a public speaker and I don't like to recall all that stuff."

Comments: vbblevins@woh.rr.com

Dr. Vivian Blevins has been active in volunteering with the Miami Valley of Ohio veterans to record their stories and honor them since 2011. She has produced programs to honor World War II and Vietnam War Era veterans and is working on one for Korean War veterans scheduled for noon on November 10, 2016, at Edison State Community College. She and her students do interviews for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and she has produced over a dozen programs entitled "Veterans' Voices for her local cable station. Photo from Dr. Blevins: World War II U.S. Army veteran Captain Robert Tweed of Troy relates his experiences at the Battle of the Bulge and Dachau to Edison American literature students. Left to right, front row: Gabrielle Knouff, Jessie Jones, Mindy Bach, Savannah Harvey. Second row: Jon Dembski, Jesse Wall, faculty Vivian Blevins. Students are studying Maus, a Nobel Prize-winning graphic novel about the Holocaust.



At the Spring meeting of the Pacific NW Association of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division held in Seattle WA April 30-May 1, 2016, five WWII Rainbow Veterans attended with family members. In this photo taken by John LaVassar, are Frank Burns, Association President (I/242), Ralph DiCecco (SVC Btry/542nd FA), Roger Ford (HQ Btry/ 402nd FA), Wilbur Miller (42ndEngineer Combat Bn.) and Dee Eberhart (I/242).

A Life Filled With Rainbows

From The family of John Baker Wheatley, Jr.

T-5 JOHN BAKER WHEATLEY, JR., Rainbow Division veteran, served his country proudly as a member of 2nd Squad, Company B, 1st Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division. January 29, 1944 was his first day at Camp Gruber, OK.

His family and friends have delighted in providing the pot'o'gold in a life in which the "Rainbows" just keep coming!

This past year illustrates just a few of them.



On 15 May 2015, Rainbow Division veteran John Baker Wheatley, Jr. participated in an Honor Flight to Washington DC. From his hospital room, he followed the events and honors by the streaming images received on his laptop as a live computer feed while his daughter-in-law, Mary O'Wheatley, traveled in his stead. Mary wrote, "JohnnyB was the 1st WWII Veteran to go on the Honor Flight via Live Streaming back to his hospital bed. His son John stayed in the hospital with laptop while I flew on the Honor Flight. Our very own Heather French Henry-Miss America, Kentucky 2000 - was there with her Veteran Father and both helped with our Live Streaming back to JohnnyB." (photo right)



August 2015

from Mary –

"My Director Shelly Saffran with the Kentucky Real Estate Commission approved JohnnyB coming to work with me.

JohnnyB helped work my office at the Kentucky Real Estate Commission booth at our Kentucky State Fair. He LOVED handing out over 1,000 yard sticks per day!"





In November 2015
 “JohnnyB” was a guest of
 Sgt. Brian Monroe and his
 wife, Nancy at the Marine
 Corps Ball held in
 Lexington KY.



In May 2016 at the
 Thomson-Hood Veterans
 Center in Wilmore, KY
 where he resides, he
 asked Brian if he would
 present his awards and
 medals to him in an
 Honors Ceremony for
 the residents there.
 Nancy Monroe wrote,
 “Brian’s Marine unit
 provides the Color
 Guard and escorts for
 these ceremonies, and



Brian along with a couple other
 active duty service members are
 the ones who present the
 medals/awards to the veterans.
 Mr. Wheatley specifically
 requested that Brian be the one
 who presented his awards to
 him.” **Sgt. Monroe is on Left,**
and his wife Nancy with their
two sons, Seth (8) and Luke (5)

Photo Left - Johnny B with his
Bronze Star Medal, certificates
and badges; his son, John on
right with friends, Cliff and
Lynette Heil; photo by Mary



On the Fourth of July 2016 the annual Wilmore parade was
 cancelled due to weather but the Wheatley and Monroe families
 celebrated with John. The Army Unit is from the Lexington 138th Field
 Artillery Brigade. They came anyway to wish all the Veterans the Best
 Independence Day ever!

Above Photo left to right, John Wheatley, Seth Monroe, Luke
Monroe, JohnnyB, Sgt. Brian Monroe and his wife, Nancy.

Photos of the medal ceremony are provided through Nancy Monroe and
 Leslee Horn, Activities Dept. Thomson-Hood Veterans Center; the
 Marine Corps Ball photos from the Monroe Family and photos of the
 Honor Flight are provided by Mary O’Wheatley, friends and family.

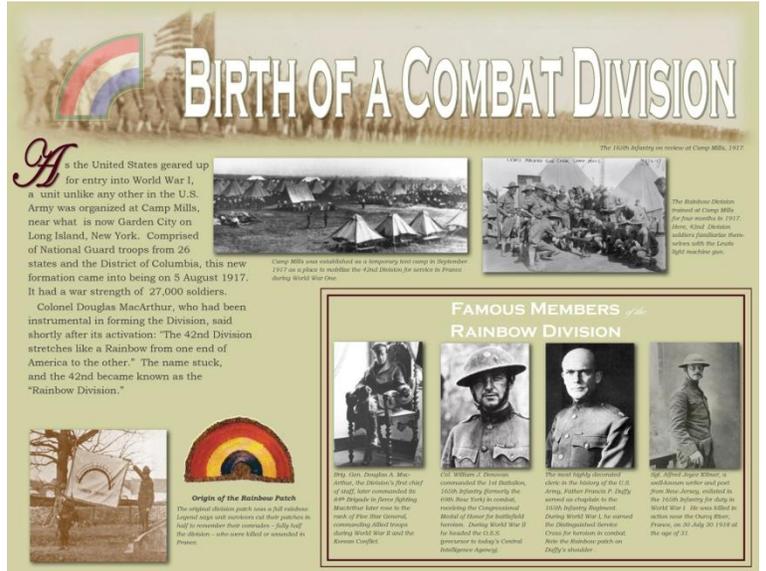
John and his father, JohnnyB
 with Wheatley family dogs -
 Fred, Zoe and Buddy who
 visit John regularly at his new
 residence at Thomson-Hood
 Veterans Center in Wilmore,
 Kentucky.



To be in touch with JohnnyB,
 please email
Mary.Owheatley@gmail.com

Call for Artifacts RDVF Heritage Room

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian

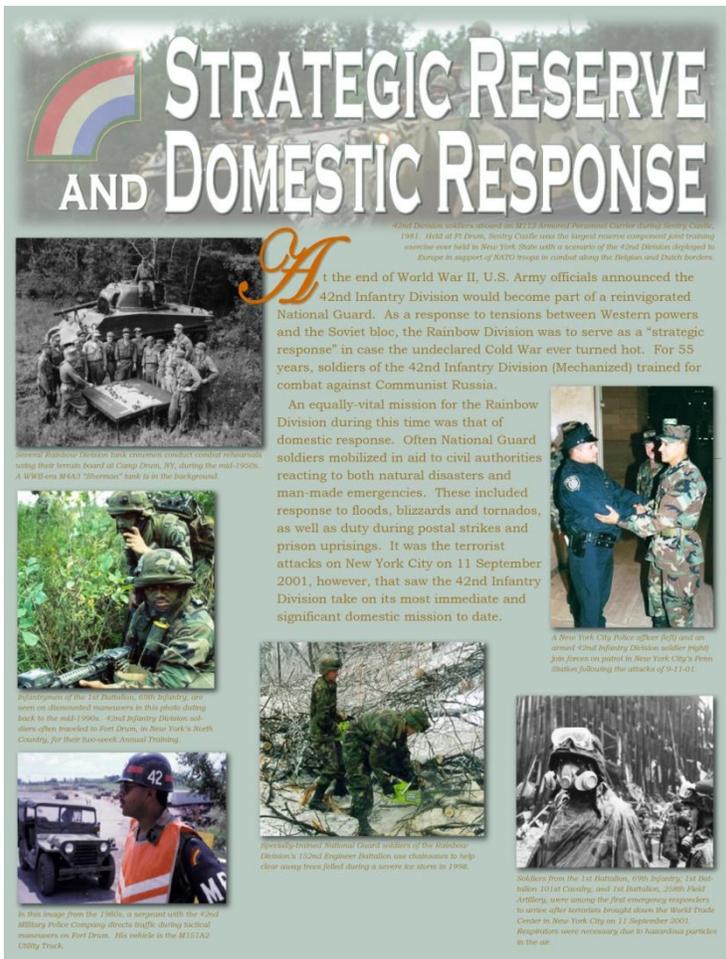


As the 42nd Infantry Division nears its 100th birthday,
 both currently-serving unit members and the Rainbow Division
 Veterans Foundation are making big plans to commemorate this
 milestone. Keep an eye on the *Rainbow Reveille* for news of
 upcoming memorial dedication ceremonies, birthday
 celebrations and an RDVF excursion to Rainbow battlefields
 across France in 2018.

One anniversary project, the dedication of our RDVF
 Heritage Room at the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in
 Troy New York, is nearing completion. In this article we hope to
 tell you more about that heritage room, as well as to seek our
 members’ help in conveying the Rainbow’s story.

Last year, the foundation’s Board of Directors approved
 a plan to upgrade the small heritage room located at the 42nd
 Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy, NY. Over the winter,
 artifacts were inventoried while the building underwent a major
 lead-abatement project. Now, in partnership with the New York
 State Military Museum, a small team of volunteers is setting up
 several new and exciting displays in this heritage room.

We are installing artifacts, uniform-clad mannequins
 and interpretive wall panels which convey the story of the
 Rainbow Division in World War One, World War Two, the Cold
 War and our nation’s long war against terrorism. The RDVF and
 its parent organizations also get full attention, as professionally-
 designed displays show how our robust veterans’ foundation has
 evolved over the years.



and unit of assignment, as well as any other interesting bits of data you may be able to provide.

If you have artifacts or books suitable for donation to the RDVF Heritage Room, please contact the RDVF Historian, Patrick Chaisson, at 518-641-2731, or by email at Patchais@aol.com.



We are in special need of veterans' association chapter buttons or flags, unit insignia, OIF paperwork, and/or Cold War era photographs/printed material.

Help us make the RDVF Heritage Room at the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters into a world-class exhibit that helps preserve the legacy of the Rainbow Division.

Photo captions:

Photo One: This image, courtesy the New York State Military Museum, interprets the Rainbow Division's World War One combat history. It will become part of the RDVF Heritage Room in the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters.

Photo Two: The 42nd Infantry Division's Cold War history is interpreted in this panel, one of several designed by curators at the New York State Military Museum. Other exhibits include displays of RDVF artifacts, as well as war trophies brought back by Rainbow veterans from three wars.

Photo Three: This snapshot of two empty bookshelves was taken in the RDVF Heritage Room located in the Rainbow Division Headquarters building, Troy NY. Won't you consider donating books on the 42nd Infantry Division's history to fill up our library?

**Eastern Region Veterans Association
Of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division
Ocean City, NJ Reunion April 2016**



Enjoying this spring reunion, WWII Rainbow Veterans seated on front row, L-R are Harold Melinek (42QM); Bud Gahs (AT/222); John Walker (G/222); Frank Dippo (42HQ).

Photo by Emily Marcason-Tolmie

Further, a library containing hard-to-find books on the 42nd Infantry Division's combat service is being put together. This collection will be made available so that military personnel can learn lessons from the past as they prepare for future operations. Civilian historians and veterans will also be able to visit the library and examine the artifacts of our shared history.

While we already have many one-of-a-kind objects for our exhibits, there is room in the RDVF Heritage Room for more. Please consider this is an invitation to all *Rainbow Reveille* readers to contribute artifacts they may wish to donate.

We will accept the following:

Books in very good or better condition on the 42nd Infantry Division's service in WWI, WWII, the Cold War or Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom. General history books or those unrelated to the Rainbow Division are not needed.

Small artifacts (photos, patches, identification tags, war souvenirs, small printed materials such as field manuals or historical pamphlets) from 42nd Division veterans of all wars or periods of service.

Small printed programs, photos, mementoes and souvenir items (buttons, banners, etc.) from past Rainbow Division Veterans Association/RDVF chapter meetings, social gatherings, annual reunions or other events.

For any object you wish to contribute, please provide as much information as you can on the Rainbow Veteran who possessed this item. We would like to know and list his or her name, rank,



A Rainbow Tradition Honored – *THE CHAMPAGNE HOUR*

By Theodore A. Johnson, Co. H, 232nd Inf. Regt., 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division WWII, Master of Ceremonies, West Palm Beach Reunion July 15, 1985. *Photo of WWI Victory Medal with these battle clasps: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Defensive Sector – on the WWI uniform of Milton M. Townsend, Co. “B”, 168th Regiment, contributed by his granddaughter, Lori Hornback.*

“This Is The Champagne Hour.” So many times in those years since these elder statesmen of Rainbow, here at these head tables, came back from Europe, so many times have they heard that simple introduction. It was the beginning of a tradition that perhaps did more to build the mystic of Rainbow than any other single thing except the men of Rainbow themselves. Yet for nearly 60 years at every Reunion, held in those days so that the 14th of July always occurred as the last day of the Reunion; Rainbowers of WWI, later joined by men of WWII, assembled at a solemn and sacred ceremony that began exactly at a quarter to twelve following the Reunion Banquet. Many of you, like almost all of us of WWII who had joined Rainbow a good deal earlier, had really expected that Champagne Hour would be another chance to imbibe and at least be a toast to the men who had been left behind. Indeed it was and is far more than that. Its only relationship to champagne was the name of the Battle that stunned the last German offensive and turned the tide to the

Allies. And such a battle it was! Each of those meetings was handled by a Master of Ceremonies of the Champagne Hour. The very first according to my records was the great Father Duffy, who conducted a Champagne Hour in Columbia, South Carolina in 1924. How fortunate it would have been to hear that noble cleric review the symbolism of the Champagne. Later, the Master of Ceremonies was taken over by Col. J. Monroe Johnson [117 Field Engineers], perhaps one of the most eloquent speakers in all America. And who, including those of us of World War II who came early enough to hear him, can ever forget how he closed each time as he paraphrased the Star Spangled Banner, **“As long as we remain the home of the brave, we shall always be the land of the free.”**

If you ever heard the dramatic reenactment of the Battle given by the inimitable Ruby D. Garrett [117 Field Bn Signal Corps], you felt that you too had been in that dugout yourself. Governor Wilbur Brucker [166th Regiment], later to become Secretary of the Army, would remind us in his conclusion that **“all of us have been willing to die for our country, but we who survive must now be willing to live for our country.”** Then there was that long reign of Al Hoyt [166th Regiment], superb Historian, who delineated the circumstances leading up to the Battle of Champagne, and the battle, and the results that followed; in one of the most eloquent historical documents on military warfare that was ever written. In later years Homer Gardner [168th Regiment] and I shared a common Champagne Hour and I can tell you that while I’ve done a lot of things in Rainbow and held high office of which I have been humbly proud, nothing thrilled me more than that I might be the Master of Ceremonies at Elmer Cook’s [232nd Regiment] Philadelphia Reunion.

A few years have passed since the toll of the late night hour and the pain that the passing years sometimes gave to these gallant men of World War I let this grand tradition of Rainbow pass from our agenda. President Carr [122nd Med Bn, WWII], in this Reunion where we particularly honor our beloved comrades of WWI, has asked that it be presented again. Let me then recite from the most significant passages of Al Hoyt’s history:

“The German spring drive of 1918 had been very successful. Reinforced by 120 divisions released from the Russian front, the German armies were far superior numerically to those of the Allies. The Germans had driven a large salient into the French lines between Reims and Bellow Wood, and had reached Chateau Thierry on the Marne, only 40 miles from Paris, which permitted the German long range guns to fire directly into Paris. The Allies were desperate. Their reserves were nearly all used, the Americans would not arrive in force, in time to help, and a further onslaught was inevitable, as the German goal was Paris, and the enemy, flushed with victory on every front, was not to be stopped short of his goal. The destiny of the world hung in balance. At this time, late June, the Rainbow joined the Fourth French Army in Champagne under General Henri Gouraud. The front of the Fourth French Army extended from the borders of the Reims eastward to the Argonne Forest, a distance of about 40 miles. Here was the Champagne – the arid and outlandish part of the Champagne, without a vineyard, a garden, or a field of wheat. Known because of its meagerness, as the “lousy Champagne.” It was very white and very desolate. Chalk was everywhere; chalk reflected the heat and kept the cool on the ground in, made the roads firm, and readily afforded deep dugouts of great strength and resisting power. The only touch of color on the widths of these plains was the thick poppy fields, then full-blown. The villages that had been were now heaps of stone, if even these vestiges remained. There was an occasional swell in the ground that afforded slight protection for the Infantry, but mostly it was just a barren plain, where the hot July winds stirred up the white, fine chalk dust, and blew it in the men’s faces as they tried to sleep. On this front in late June and July there was no fighting whatever. When the Germans’ advance was halted so rudely and effectively by the green American Third Division, which arrived by truck at the crucial hour to halt the march on Paris, the German High Command knew that no further advance could be made in this area at the moment. General Gouraud knew that the inevitable next assault must be made against his front, and that it would be terrible in force. And so this wily, cunning, one armed “Hero of Gallipoly”, knowing that the eyes of the world were upon him, laid a trap....”

To be continued in a later issue of REVEILLE, as will current news of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation’s (RDVF) involvement in the WWI Centennial in Europe – reported by RDVF Chairman Joe Taluto.

**WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST
DEATHS REPORTED SINCE APRIL 2016**

Applegate, Russell S.,	SVC/232
Bair, Harold Theodore “Ted”,	A/222
Barnes, Joseph T.	M/232
Bowers, James M.	Anti-Tank/232
Burns, James D.,	G/242
Cimpl, Richard F. “Dick”	K/232
Davis, Elwin W. “Jones”	Btry B/232nd F.A.
Evers, Harm John	H1B/242
Fulton, Harmon R.	L/222
Galvan, Ralph Jr., trumpet,	42 Div. Band
Gillespie, Daniel P.	H/222
Gillette, Samuel	C/242
Hayes, Clifford J.	H3B/222
Hegarty, Maj James Jr.	232d FA
Kehl, Fred Otto	L/232
Kelly, Samuel W.	B/232
McKeever, Carl (5/16/2016)	232
Moffett, John (4/3/2016)	222
Phillips, Ernie J.	K/242
Roberge, William A.	H1B/242
Sawyer, Henry Clay Jr.,	I/222
Spiegler, Roger W.	H/242
Viglietta, Joseph F. Sr.,	H2B/232
Weiss, Robert F. “Bob” SJ,	M/222

**NATIONAL RAINBOW AUXILIARY DEATHS
REPORTED SINCE APRIL 2016**



Mary Alford, wife of D.R. Alford, A/222

**RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC.
Contributions 10 April – 10 July 2016
RDVF SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND**

Estate of William Roberge (H1B/242) – 1,000
Jacqueline Vincent – 25.; Harold Melinek, for Fr. Bob Weiss – 25;
42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division Association – 1,000.

Recently, the 42d Infantry “Rainbow” Division Association conducted its Annual Golf Outing at West Point. The “Rainbow” Association decided that monies collected from sponsorships and raffles would be donated to the RDVF Scholarship Fund. I’m delighted to report to you, that I’m enclosing a check in the amount of \$1,000 dedicated to the RDVF Scholarship Fund.

Thanks for your efforts in keeping the legacy of our Great Division alive and well and for caring for Division Soldiers in need.

*Respectfully,
Pasquale Alesia, BG (R)
President
42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division Association*

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 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.