



REVEILLE

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42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division To Be 100 Years Old

The renowned 42nd Division will celebrate its 100th anniversary August 2017. (Go to www.rainbowvets.org and read about the Division’s history). The 42nd has a prominent place in US history as the FIRST National Guard Division mobilized and sent to combat overseas. The Rainbow Division’s formation in 1917 is predicated on many of the provisions passed in the National Defense Act of 1916 https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Defense_Act_of_1916 where, as the

expansion of the National Guard gave the President authority for the first time to activate National Guard units for federal duty among other authorities. This gave rise to the idea to form an Army Division out of National Guard units from around the country. The idea had many positive aspects. First, our Nation was in need of manpower as they prepared to enter WWI. Two, many of the National Guard units had experience from the border wars with Pancho Villa and were thought to be well prepared to take on additional training for combat. Three, bringing units together from 26 different States would help bring support for the war effort, hence the 42nd Division was born! The National Guard units that made up the 42nd came from across the country and assembled at Camp Mills in what is now Garden City, Long Island, NY.



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Photo upper left - Rainbow Memorial Service, July 14, 2007 MacArthur Museum, Norfolk, VA
“The 42nd Division stretches like a Rainbow from one end of America to the other.”1917 quote from Colonel Douglas MacArthur

Lower left – Rainbow Division National Monument Garden City, New York; Birthplace of the Rainbow Division, Camp Mills, Long Island, New York 1917

Photos courtesy of MacArthur Museum and William C. Donovan, Commander, William Bradford Turner Post No. 265 The American Legion, Garden City, NY.

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 OCTOBER 2016

Greetings to all our Rainbow family and friends. Our recently concluded 2016 Annual Board meeting and Awards banquet went extremely well. On Friday night September 9th we had a reunion cocktail party that was well attended! We were able to catch up with many of our comrades



and hope to see them at least yearly at our Annual events. Speaking of annual events, next year is a very special year! The 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division will be 100 years old in August 2017. We are planning a big ceremony in Garden City, Long Island where the 42nd was mobilized for WWI at Camp Mills. We have a very beautiful monument to our WWI Veterans in Garden City and lay a wreath each year on Veterans’ Day. More specifics will follow on exactly when the ceremony will take place. Also specifics on next year’s cocktail reunion party and awards banquet will be published soon.

Of special note, starting with this Reveille edition we are going to dedicate at least one page to WWI era stories and events for the next year in honor of the WWI Centennial, our Division’s birthday and its participation in The Great War. We are also going to dedicate a page in the Reveille to our RDVF Scholarship Program in each edition from now on starting with this one. Our scholarship program has grown over the past several years thanks to our outstanding Scholarship Committee and of course our member/donors. This year we again delivered 22.5K in scholarship grants and are prepared to do at least the same amount next year!

Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Regards, Joe
RAINBOW, NEVER FORGET! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman

42ND Division to Host WWI Ceremony in France

The Hq’s 42nd Infantry Division will host a ceremony on July 28, 2018 in Fère-en-Tardenois at the Oise-Aisne Cemetery in France. The ceremony has been authorized by the Department of the Army and ceremony details are being developed by the Division. The 42nd has been selected to host this ceremony based on the numerous battles it fought in and around the Fère-en-Tardenois area. Better known as the Battle of the Ourcq (River), the 42nd routed enemy defensive forces that would eventually lead to the end of the war. Several monuments and memorials dedicated to the 42nd Division are located in this area of France, including the WWI monument at Croix-Rouge Farm (see <http://croixrougefarm.org/history-battle/> to learn about the battle) on 42nd Division Memorial Way in Fère-en-Tardenois. Over 6000 US Soldiers are interred at Oise-Aisne Cemetery with over 300 being from the 42nd. (The RDVF is planning a trip for those member/donors that would like to visit WWI battlefields and attend the ceremony at the Oise-Aisne cemetery. Details for the trip are being developed and information will be forthcoming in the near future!)



photo courtesy of American Battle Monuments Commission; visit this web page to learn more about the Oise-Aisne cemetery.

<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials#.V Jg4d rvIU>

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or online payment at <rainbowvets.org>

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

William C. Mead, 1st Sgt., Co. F., 166th Infantry 42nd Division WWI

First printed in *The Rainbow Reveille* October 1964

Our Heavenly Father – As we near the time of our national elections, grant us in our doubts and uncertainties the wisdom to save us from all false choices for the leadership of this great nation. Grant unto our new leaders, whoever they may be, the power and understanding, that this great nation may still be the example for all the Free World to follow...**Amen.**

World War I Centennial Commission Established



Photo by RDVF Memorials Officer, Paul Fanning

Present at the annual RDVF Awards Banquet held in Troy, NY on the evening of 10 September 2016 were, L – R, RDVF Chairman, MG (Ret.) Joe Taluto, Dr. Monique Brouillet Seefried, a United States WWI Centennial Commissioner and a Director of the Croix Rouge Farm Foundation; and MG Harry E. Miller, Commander of the 42nd Infantry Division.

The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission was created by an Act of Congress in 2013. Members of the 12-member Commission were appointed by the President and the leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the National World War I Museum. All four living former Presidents have agreed to serve the Commission as honorary chairmen.

The Commission's mission is to plan, develop, and execute programs, projects and activities to commemorate the Centennial of World War I (WWI).

Over the next five years, the Commission intends to :

*Develop educational programs targeted at a variety of audiences and delivered through a variety of broadcast, print and digital media, with the goal of teaching Americans about the country's most forgotten war.

*Organize activities, events, and symposia to commemorate American involvement in "The Great War."

*Establish a National World War I Memorial in Washington DC, and bring attention to the thousands of World War I memorials in communities across the country that honor Americans who served in the war.

*Serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information about events and activities related to the Centennial Commemoration.

*Over the next four years, the Commission will serve as the lead organizer for the nation's commemorative events and will coordinate the activities of thousands of individuals and institutions as they tell the story of The Great War. The Commission's mission is to raise awareness of and give meaning to the events of a hundred years ago, using educational experiences and programming for all ages.

*World War I remains America's forgotten war, even though more Americans gave their lives during that war than during Korea and Vietnam combined, and even though it profoundly shaped the rest of "the American century." The Commission will use the Centennial as a timely and essential opportunity to educate the country's citizens about the causes, courses and consequences of the war; to honor the heroism and sacrifice of those Americans who served; and to commemorate through public programs and initiatives the centennial of this global event.

2016 Rainbow Scholarship Awards Presented at Annual Awards Dinner to 14 Recipients

Mike Kelly, RDVF Scholarship Committee Chairman



Above Photo L-R: RDVF Chairman, Joe Taluto; MacArthur Award recipient, Meagan Lettko, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lettko, and her uncle and aunt, BG (Ret.) James and Mrs. Lettko – below, L-R, LTC (Ret) Mike Kelly, RDVF Scholarship Chairman; RDVF Chairman, Joe Taluto; RDVF Secretary, Melanie Remple, accepting 222nd Infantry Regiment Award for Emily Haberlack. Photos by RDVF Memorials Officer, Paul Fanning



It was a pleasure to recommend to the RDVF Board the 14 scholarship winners for 2016. The awards ranged from \$750.00 to \$5,000.00 dollars.

Our scholarship program continues to be successful thanks to the past and current donors who have been extremely generous to

support the student applicants in pursuit of their higher education goals. It was evident after reading the student essays that they are aware of the individual and family sacrifices that are part of military service. They recognize that it is ordinary citizens that answer the call to duty and often have to perform extraordinary deeds to protect our freedoms and help ensure that others in different areas of the world have a secure future. Through their essays and personal contact it was evident that they demonstrated an appreciation and understanding of our Division's historic past. The 2016 scholarship winners were as follows:

- The MacArthur Award for \$5,000 given to **Meagan Lettko**, attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- The RDVA/RDVF Past Presidents Award for \$3,000 given to **Kathryn Ellenbecker**, attending James Madison University
- The Ted Simonson Award for \$2,000 given to **Katherine Story**, attending The University of Alabama
- The Dee and Barbara Eberhart Award for \$2,000 given to **Madison Juszczak**, attending John Carroll University
- The 222nd Infantry Regiment Award for \$1,500 given to **Emily Haberlack**, attending Iowa State University
- The Task Force Liberty Award for \$1,500 given to **Andrew Myers**, attending Pennsylvania State University
- The Champagne Award for \$1,000 given to **Catherine Hughes**, attending Elizabethtown College
- The Ted Johnson Award for \$1,000 given to **Owen Kenny**, attending California Polytechnic Institute
- The 42 Rainbow Division Association of NY Award for \$1,000 given to **Alexa Piwowski**, attending State University of New York- Purchase
- The William A. Roberge Award for \$1,000 given to **Joseph Ruggiero** attending Wagner College
- The RDVF Award for \$1,000 given to **Emily Williams**, attending Schreiner University
- The RDVF Award for \$1,000 given to **Kimberly Daniels**, attending the University of Connecticut
- The RDVF Award for \$750 given to **Aaron Ablove**, attending Hartwick College
- The RDVF Award for \$750 given to **Abigail Glick**, attending University of Massachusetts-Boston

Our award winners are attending some of the finest colleges and universities in the country and it was a pleasure to work with them throughout the process. The entire Foundation membership wish them well in their future endeavors.

Speech given at Banquet by Rainbow Scholarship recipient of The MacArthur Scholarship Award, Meagan Lettko

Good Evening, I would like to start by saying how honored I am to be here and to be receiving this award. I am truly grateful to the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation for this opportunity. I first heard about this scholarship through my Uncle, Jim Lettko. He has been a member of the 42nd Infantry Division for more than half of his Army career and is currently a lifetime member of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation. My grandfather, George Lettko, also served in WWII as a member of the 78th Infantry "Lightning" Division. I am truly humbled by both my uncle and grandfather's service to this country, and I would like to express my most sincere gratitude and appreciation for the service and sacrifices of all Servicemen and women. Thank you for sacrificing time away from your families and enduring countless hours of training to protect our nation. You truly embody the legacy of the Rainbow Division. Ever since August 1917, this Division has "stretched like a rainbow" across America. The men and women from this Division have been involved in WWI, WWII, the Global War on Terrorism, and have given aid to civil authorities. They have traveled to the ends of the earth to preserve peace and to promote justice and equality. They are true American Heroes. Today, the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation preserves the legacy of the 42nd Infantry Division by maintaining traditions, creating new traditions, erecting memorials, and educating students. The award I receive from this Foundation will help with the cost of my college education. I am currently attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to pursue my bachelor's degree in engineering. I am currently interested in mechanical engineering with the goal of researching and contributing to alternative energy solutions. I hope that in this way, I can also help improve the quality of life for Americans in the way that the Rainbow Division and Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation has.

RDVF BOARD TO DEVELOP SCHOLARSHIP NAMING POLICY

As our scholarship program has grown over the years, the board has taken the liberty of naming scholarships after people or places that have a special place in RDVF history. After some thought and research we recognize that an official policy for naming scholarship grants should be developed to guide us. The policy will take into consideration donations made to our scholarship fund. The RDVF has had numerous donations to our scholarship fund over the years. While we are thankful for all donations large or small, some have been very generous and worthy of special recognition on a recurring basis. For example, The RDVF Scholarship Fund did receive donations of one hundred thousand dollars from three Rainbow families. The board believes that substantial contributions such as these should be recognized in perpetuity. Therefore, we will name scholarships after the Stillman Sawyer, Kaiser and Duhacsek family each year. Before next year's scholarship awards, the board will develop an official policy for naming scholarships after donors and/or special people of significance to the RDVF Scholarship program. We will publish the policy as soon as it is developed and approved by the board.

RDVF LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE RECOGNIZED

Marlene Krein Marlene has been a life member of the Foundation since 2004. She also is a member of The Millennium Legacy Association of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division. Marlene was also a member of the RDVA Auxiliary prior to its merger with the Foundation. Marlene's maternal uncle, Ferdinand Francis Framstad is her Rainbow veteran! "Fernie", as he was called was mobilized at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma for service in WWII. He was the 1st SGT of K Company, 222nd Infantry Regiment. (Marlene was a member of the 222nd Inf. Regt. Chapter and affiliated with Co. K while it was active). "Fernie" died January 1946 at Ft. Snelling, MN the day prior to his scheduled return to Europe. Marlene was just 11 years old. Marlene has been an RDVF Board Trustee since 2008, serving three consecutive terms and two chairmen. She has made every Reunion and annual board meeting since becoming a trustee.. She was particularly helpful during the merger of the RDVA and RDVF in 2005 and with the merger of the Auxiliary and RDVF in 2012/13. Marlene Krein has been a positive and progressive thinker and has made a significant contribution to the RDVF for over 12 years.

NEW RAINBOW DIVISION HERITAGE ROOM OPENS

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian



The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation Heritage Room and Library at the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy, New York, is now open for visitors.

Rainbow veterans and friends first toured this newly-renovated museum during the RDVF's annual meeting, held 9-10 September 2016. The

Foundation gathered in Troy to host a well-attended scholarship dinner, as well as to conduct social events and a business meeting.

The RDVF Heritage Room traces the nearly century-long history of the 42nd "Rainbow" Division, focusing on its combat history in World War One, World War Two and the Global War on Terrorism. Interpretive panels, displays and artifacts – many donated by Rainbow Division veterans – powerfully tell this story.

Visitors learn the Rainbow Division was one of the first American outfits to enter combat during World War One, suffering a 50% casualty rate while on the line. An inscribed mess kit and gas mask, carried by Pvt. Joseph J. Jones, Sr. of the 165th Infantry and donated by his son Jim, help form the centerpiece of this display.

During World War Two the Rainbow was reactivated to serve in the fight against Nazi Germany. A large display traces the 42nd Infantry Division's service in Europe, to include its liberation of the infamous Dachau Concentration Camp. Artifacts on exhibition include paper items and a 1945 Christmas card from occupied Austria provided by Rainbow vet John P. Harrison.

The Division's role as a Cold War National Guard formation is well-interpreted, as is its service in Iraq from 2004-2005. Several Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans donated items to this display, which includes a Desert Camouflage Uniform worn by then-Sergeant Kelly Fancher of the 42nd



Infantry Division Headquarters stationed in Tikrit, Iraq.

The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation is recognized as well. A well-placed section of the room recognizes those Rainbow veterans and friends who preserve the memory of the fallen through memorials, ceremonies and education programs.



A membership station in the museum further encourages currently-serving soldiers to join the RDVF, their continuing participation helping to ensure the deeds, sacrifices and traditions of all those who

belonged to the 42nd Infantry Division are never forgotten. Finally, a growing research library will provide soldiers, friends and historians with books, tapes and digitally-stored material on the rich history of the Rainbow Division. This library benefits from a generous donation of volumes from RDVF member and *Rainbow Reveille* editor Suellen McDaniel.



The Heritage Room welcomes donations of artifacts, printed material and especially historical texts on the 42nd Infantry Division

from interested RDVF members. All donations will be acknowledged, catalogued and stored professionally in the Heritage Room.

Visitors are welcome, although at present hours are by appointment only. Contact the RDVF Historian at 518-641-2731 or at patchais@aol.com to arrange a tour. Valid identification will be necessary to gain access to the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters building.

This year-long restoration project would not be possible without the unwavering support of the RDVF Board of Directors and the Commanding General, 42nd Infantry Division. Special recognition is due the Troy Armory Superintendent, Mr. David Guest; and the Director of Military History at the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, Mr. Courtney Burns.

The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation and the 42nd Infantry Division now have a proper facility in which their proud heritage can be shared with veterans, friends and scholars. We invite you to visit, remember and reflect on the sacrifice of those who came before us.

Photo One: At the 2016 RDVF Annual Meeting, former 42nd Inf. Div. Commanding General Steven Wickstrom examines a display case containing Rainbow Division artifacts from World War One. Photo by Sergeant Major Corine Lombardo, New York Army National Guard.

Photo Two: A collection of Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation photographs and flag markers interprets the role of veterans in remembering the fallen and preserving our shared history. Photo by Sergeant Major Corine Lombardo, New York Army National Guard.

Photo Three: Interpretive wall panels and display cases tell the Rainbow Division's story. This section marks the 42nd's service during the Cold War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Sergeant Major Corine Lombardo, New York Army National Guard.

Photo Four: Donated personal items lend a human touch to the World War Two display in the RDVF Heritage Room, located at the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy, New York. Photo by Sergeant Major Corine Lombardo, New York Army National Guard.

At the 2016 RDVF Annual Meeting at Troy, NY 42nd Division Headquarters, former RDVF Board Member Esther Koenig-Peirce presented her husband Carrol Koenig's WWII uniform jacket for display in the new RDVF Heritage Room. Carrol C. Koenig served in SVC Battery, 542nd Field Artillery Battalion, 42nd "Rainbow" Division. Receiving this gift is RDVF Chairman, Joe Taluto.



Photo by RDVF Memorials Officer, Paul Fanning



A RAINBOW CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

From *The Rainbow Reveille* December 1964

By RDVA President, Theodore A. "Ted" Johnson, H/232

While the Christmas message is a Promise of the future, the day, more than any other holiday, draws upon the nostalgia of the past. No time in a soldier's service away from home is more memorable than Christmas. And Christmas provided Rainbowers of two wars, some of the greatest trials and warmest memories of their service overseas. Photo "Buckeyes" of the 166th Inf., 42^d Div., rest on the hike to Rolampont."

December 1917 found most of the Rainbow waiting to move into the lines. Major Wolf described those days: "Promptly with the advent of Christmas week, the division received a warning order for a movement farther south past Chaumont, to begin on December 26th. By Christmas Day, a great deal of snow had fallen...The march was a long one...In a blinding snow storm it commenced. The roads were deep with snow, with a treacherous glassy base and full of long grades and sharp turns. The thermometer kept on dropping and the men proceeded through these conditions in the same uniform in which they passed in review before the Secretary of War on that balmy Sunday afternoon in Indian summer...The columns, with gallantry and grip, drove ahead at least 25 kilometers a day and came in well closed and accounted for...It was all summed up by a soldier of the foot column who, limping and with his feet in rags, crossed the bridge at Rolampont. Sliding and slipping under the weight of his pack and covered with the snow from the gale that he was combating: "Valley Forge—Hell!" he said, "There ain't no such animal." ...The experience settled the man who took part – he became a veteran, so far as contending with the elements was concerned and he had shown a tenacity and nerve which, when the Rainbow took the field, never was more surely demonstrated. It was a great march; such was the judgement of those who observed it." Photo –US Official Photos of WWI



"A familiar sight – soldiers moving to the front and civilians hurrying to the rear. The men are from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry"; from 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division History World War II, Daly, p. 19

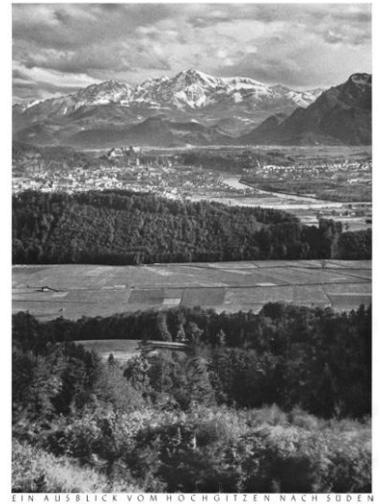
December 1944 and the Infantry regiments operating as Task Force Linden moved directly to the front. Two days before Christmas the infantrymen arrived in the vicinity of Strasbourg. On the day before Christmas the regiments moved into front line positions along the Rhine River. A staff sergeant wrote of what followed soon after: "On the frozen soil of Alsace-Lorraine a battle flared, and beetfields became battlefields and quaint old farmhouses became modern forts and a neighbor's yard was no man's land." There were no Christmas trees in Hatten or Kilstett or Sessenheim.

Where were you on December 25, 1944? If you were an Infantryman, you had arrived at Marseilles and tasted the first of a bitter cold winter on the 8th of December on a barren hill called CP-2. You had ridden the famed '40 & 8's' to the north and just two days before, you had been assigned a 19-mile sector of the front extended along the Rhine River from Strasbourg to well north of Hatten. You were billeted on Christmas Eve in the French Barracks or in a hole along the dike or in Hoerdt or some other little Alsatian town. And you sang some carols or closed your eyes and dreamed of home. And on Christmas Day they served you turkey. You had fired and been fired at, but only once or twice, and war had not spoiled your peace of mind. But you were a little lonely. If you were an Artilleryman or a Signal Co. man or a member of the supporting units, you were probably crammed on a troop train headed for Camp Kilmer (NJ). And you had steak and the Division Band toured the train and played Christmas music and all were serious and a little lonely, too. You didn't know your buddies were already in combat or how very soon you would be joined with them in the last great conquest of the last great war that would end an era in history.

What followed Christmas, 1944? Well, there was the brave defense of the Rhineland against massed German troops and tanks in Kilstett and Soufflenheim and Drusenheim and Gambsheim and Offendorf and Herrlisheim. And there was Hatten, where the 1st Bn., 242nd Infantry started the action with 33 officers and 748 men and 52 hours later had an effective strength of 11 officers and 253 men. So it was in the cold and snow of 1944 that Task Force Linden held the lines. With the rest of the Division on board, you were the first troops in Seventh Army to enter Germany. You broke the Siegfried Line by splitting a German Corps in two. You captured Würzburg and Schweinfurt and Nürnberg and Munich and a thousand towns and hills and holes between. And the war was won.

Where were you on 25 December 1945?

If you were one of the old timers in the outfit, you may have been home on points but if you were ASTP or Air Cadet turned Rainbow or a later replacement, you were spending your second Christmas in Europe. Now the war was behind you and you were comfortably billeted in Salzburg or Vienna or any one of hundreds of those quaint mountain villages of the Austrian Tyrol. Some of you were within walking distance of where 'Silent Night' was first played on a Christmas many years before. And Peace was on Earth and you were glad indeed, but still a little serious and a little lonely. It is always so for a soldier on Christmas away from home.



EIN AUSBLICK VOM HOCHGITZEN NACH SÜDEN

Ed. "Silent Night" was composed in 1818 in Oberndorf bei Salzburg photo from SALZBURG Gestalt und Antlitz, 1943, p. 35 "Ein Ausblick Vom Hochgitzzen Nach Süden"

A RAINBOW SOLDIER IN 1945 Vienna, Austria

From Herman W. Prescott, Co. M, 3rd Bn., 222nd Infantry

Our company, M Company, 222nd Infantry, was in a staging area near Salzburg in the latter days of May 1945. One morning, everyone was called out for a Company formation. We lined up as squads and pretty soon someone came along and pointed at several people and told them to step forward. I was one of those picked out and there were so many I didn't think it was for K.P. duties.



After everyone was chosen, we were informed that we would be traveling to Vienna to be in the parade at the Four Powers Ceremony in taking over the city. As soon as this was over with, I quickly wrote my mother that I was going to Vienna as she was from a small town close by named PINKAFELD and I thought maybe I would be able to go and see where she had spent her childhood. Shortly thereafter, I received a letter from her telling me she had a sister in Vienna and sent me her address, along with a note that she had not heard from her in quite a long time.

It wasn't too long before we headed to Vienna via 2 1/2 ton trucks. Upon arriving, we were told we were going to be billeted in a huge house, which appeared to be a mansion. When we entered, we were surprised to see that there was no furniture in the place and we would be sleeping on the floor. We were told the Russians had captured everything in the place and shipped it back to Russia. Much better than the foxholes a few months ago.

The upper floors allowed us to look down on the buildings the Russian troops were staying in. They appeared to be garages and it was entertaining to observe them when they were called out. Everything they did was 'on the double' and they did not have very nice-looking uniforms, as did the British and French.

When we were able to meet any of the Russians, we soon discovered that almost all of them carried leather cases that were filled with money. The very same money that we were provided with. A Mickey Mouse wrist watch could easily be sold for \$200.00. An alarm clock with a bell ring sold for \$150.00. Apparently they had not been paid for quite some time.

Until the day of the Parade we had quite a bit of free time and it felt as though we were on leave. During this time, I looked up my mother's sister's address and found out it was located in the Russian Zone. I told our officer-in-charge I would like to visit her and thru channels he obtained permission for me to go find her. I was given a jeep and a way to get to her address and as luck would have it the building she was in was still standing. They later told me a tank battle had been fought down the street their place was on.

She was living on the top floor and when I knocked on the door it seemed like it took quite a while before there was a response. When she opened the door, you could see she was very surprised. We looked at one another and finally I told her, "Ich bin eine Luif", which was my mother's Maiden name. Boy! Her face lit up and she let me in. I finally got through to her that I was her sister's son.

Shortly afterwards, her husband came home and he was carrying a little bundle, which happened to be twigs that he had collected in a nearby park. And these twigs happened to be their source of fuel for not only heat but also for cooking any food. It was quite interesting because I had very little German and she had very little English but it is amazing what you can convey by other means. I left to return to my outfit and was telling some of the other guys where I had been.

The next day I went over to see the Mess Sergeant and he provided me with coffee, sugar, oranges and several other items of food. When I returned to their place, I gave them coffee, sugar and such and they were really thrilled. They had not had real coffee for at least ten years. Sugar was also scarce and they hadn't had an orange for at least fifteen years as all those items went to the troops.

It wasn't too long after that we had to get prepared for the Parade. For a couple of days, it was almost like Basic Training. But everyone took it seriously and we were prepared. It may sound crazy but I was mighty proud that day to be representing my country with our Stars and Stripes leading our columns. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to watch the Olympics and I know how those athletes feel when they are representing their country.

I am currently ninety-one years old and hopefully, some of my comrades in M Company, 222nd Infantry will remember me. My address is, 465 Valley Drive, # 102, Naperville IL 60563-8943.



Ed. First photo is of T/5 Herman W. Prescott in 1944, originally trained to be an azimuth operator on a 90-mm. anti-aircraft gun and stationed for a year in Greenland; photo of The Four Powers Parade and ceremony held in Vienna, Austria on 23 August 1945 is from the personal collection of Ralph Sumser, Co. B, 1st Bn., 222nd Inf. Regt. and is provided by his family.

PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

From Raymond L. Deming (PFC) Cannon Company, 232nd Infantry



On July 26, 2016, I, and nine other WWII veterans, gathered at The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park, San Diego, CA to officially have the French Legion of Honor Medal awarded and pinned on my lapel by the Consul General of France (Los Angeles), the Honorable Christophe Lemoine.

This award is given to American veterans who fought alongside French troops in World War II. In my case, I fought alongside the 1st French Army during the Battle of Strasbourg. For this contribution to the winning of that battle, I have been granted the medal, designed by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, and the distinction of Chevalier or "Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor."

Maybe, like I, many of my fellow veterans didn't know of the existence of this medal. This special honor, now given to recognize us

veterans and our service to France, came to my attention through a visit to Virginia City, Nevada, in 2014. I stepped into a shop owned by Pascal Baboulin and, when he spoke to me with his French accent, I told him I had fought with the French in WW II. He became very excited, wanted to hear my story, and then urged me to send him (it turned out he is the representative for Northern Nevada to the French Consul in Los Angeles) copies of the required proof I had been where I claimed to be (DD-214); thankfully, old age hasn't clouded the memory of who I served with and I could also attach that information in addition.



I was told that this process of being recommended for receipt of the medal could take time; there were steps of approval: Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and Paris, France. As I was approved at each of these steps, the Los Angeles Consul notified me. It took almost a year (August 2014-July 2015) to complete this process and to receive official notice that I would be receiving the medal—which did arrive within a week or so of notice. Then it was another year before this official presentation ceremony.

What an honor it is to receive this recognition from France. In 1944, as an American GI kid, I'm not sure I realized how much saving Strasbourg from the German Army meant to the people of France. Today, in hindsight and with the knowledge age affords us, I have a sense of the patriotic pride it meant for them to hold that beautiful city.

On July 26, 2016, I, the only PFC, received the same honor, tribute, and standing ovation as those high-ranking soldiers beside me. I was in good company. Just as two other Army recipients, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Colin Powell, I stood there tall and proud with that beautiful medal on my lapel.



Photos – Ray Deming wearing his Legion of Honor Medal; Ray and Pascal Baboulin in his shop in Virginia City, Nevada; And, gathered veterans honored at ceremony, Ray seated on far right Photos are from Ray and Barbara Deming

WHERE WERE YOU ON DECEMBER 7, 1941 ?

By Ray Deming, Cannon Co., 232nd Inf. Regt., 42nd Infantry Division

I celebrated my seventeenth birthday by leaving home early for a day at the beach with my buddies. I went home at the end of the day not thinking I would be drafted at the age of eighteen. People were saying it would all be over soon as our Marines would "get" those Japs. It was December 7, 1941.

My Los Angeles hometown soon took on a new look. 90-mm anti-aircraft guns were set up in schoolyards. Barrage balloons hung over the city, sent up to ward off low-flying Japanese planes we all expected to arrive any day. Rationing – sugar, tires, gas – soon became the everyday norm; when we guys had gas and went out at night, the car lights were painted black except for a thin strip of light. Redondo

Beach, our swimming beach, sported sandbagged machine gun emplacements overlooking it.

As only teenagers can feel, life before all of this had seemed boring. Now it was exciting. The enemy had touched my small part of the world. There was evidence all around me that we were at war. Soldiers and sailors popped into USO canteens before shipping out. The music of the day took on new meaning—with sounds and words I would never forget. Lockheed in Burbank was building P-48s and they were seen flying over the city daily. Where could I ever have a greater adventure?

The war didn't end soon. Before I was nineteen, Uncle Sam came calling on me. More "adventures" than I ever could have dreamed of tapped me on the shoulder. I was overseas and in the Battle of the Bulge before I knew it. The next three December 7th's found me only dreaming of birthdays at the beach in sunny California.

REMEMBERING DECEMBER 7, 1917

On December 7, 1917 the 42nd "Rainbow" Division arrived in France, among its ranks, Colonel Douglas MacArthur

<http://www.onthisday.com/date/1917/december/7>

SCENES FROM THE 2016 RAINBOW REUNION TROY, NY September 9 – 11 2016



Photos provided by RDVF Secretary, Melanie Remple

Attendees Melanie Remple, Esther and Richard Peirce (142nd Engineer Combat Bn), James "Pete" (K/232 and past President, RDVA) and Rose Pettus and Rickey Praytor (son of Leon Praytor, I/222); and, photo below, Command Sergeant Major (Retired) John Willsey, RDVF Reunions Officer, enjoys meeting Esther and Richard Peirce along with Sergeant Mike Burdick at the Hilton Garden Inn Sports Bar in Troy, NY.



THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF THE 42ND INFANTRY "RAINBOW" DIVISION WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING on October 28-30 in SEATTLE, WA at the TownePlace Suites/Marriott in Seattle-Southcenter. The banquet will be held Saturday evening 29 October.



For further information, please be in touch with Frank Burns, President PNW Association Email: frankdorothyburns@gmail.com Telephone: (206) 527-0987; cell 206-909-0717 or Association Secretary Katie Eberhart, katie.eberhart@gmail.com Photo of Seattle by David DePhillis <http://www.city-data.com/picfilesv/picv151.php>

The Soldier, the Avatar, and the Holocaust: WWII Germany, Jan.-May, 1945

By Dr. Ronni Sanlo

Seventeen year-old Beth, a talented if not strange computer nerd and secret avatar designer, hears anti-Holocaust statements from her history teacher. She decides to send her avatar back to January, 1945, to accompany her nineteen year-old great-grandfather Sandy through the last five months of WWII in Europe. Beth and her sister have heard many of his stories over the years but now Beth wants, no, needs, to see them unfold with her own eyes. As a manga cosplayer, Beth dresses in her Beth America outfit and pushes the button. She meets Sandy on the ship as he sails with his 42nd Rainbow Division to Marseilles, France.



Sandy thinks he's lost his mind when four-inch Beth appears in his jacket pocket and introduces herself as his great-granddaughter. Sandy figures war will do that to one's mind but he hasn't seen combat yet. Must be the seasickness. But, he thinks, if Beth's real, at least he doesn't die. He just got married to Lois back home in Ohio and has no children yet.

During their travels, Beth discovers the reasons why young U.S. soldiers went to war and how war affected them. She meets up with other avatars as they engage German teenage girls who suffered at the hands of soldiers, including German soldiers, when they entered their town in battle. And she watches with intense, painful horror as Sandy and his Recon buddies enter the gate of Dachau concentration camp.

Beth sees the Holocaust with her own eyes. She knows without a doubt that it happened and feels compelled to make sure other young people in the U.S. are aware of the truth. Beth transforms from being an angry student who is trying to prove an inept teacher wrong into a young woman intent on teaching others.

The Soldier, the Avatar, and the Holocaust: WWII Germany, Jan.-May, 1945 is based on the letters my father, Sanford "Sandy" Leberman wrote to my mother, Lois, from the battlefield in 1945, as well as on research at the National Military Archives, the U.S. Army 42nd Rainbow Division archives, and visits to Dachau Concentration camp near Munich, Germany. The purpose of the book is to show a new generation of readers the reality of the Holocaust so that it's not forgotten.

The book is now available on Amazon and Kindle. Autographed copies may be ordered at www.ronnisanlo.com. Ronni may be contacted at ronni@ronnisanlo.com.

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

BRYJA , Louis A.	B/232 Infantry
BULLOCK , James Darrell	C/242 Infantry
CHMURA , Anthony S.	D/232 Infantry
DIPPO , Frank H., Sr.	42 DIV HQ
GROGAN , Thomas J.	I/242 Infantry
HARKINS , Carroll	B/142 Combat Engineer Bn.
IRVINE , George W.	unit unreported
JOYCE , James R.	132 nd Signal Co.
KALINICH , Emil,	Btry B/542 nd F.A.
LEDFORD , Charlie “Sarge”	Btry B/232 nd F.A.
MAZUROWSKI , Charles F.	132 nd Signal Co.
MITCHAM , Don L.	Btry C/402d F.A.
PERKINS , Norman	42 nd MP Platoon
RUSSELL , John W.	42D Div Recon Trp
SAMPSELL , John J.	L/222 Infantry
SOLMO , Leon Nicholas	E/242 Infantry
SOULE , Lloyd T. Sr.,	MedDet/232 Infantry
STEVENS , Albert R. Jr.	unit unreported
TENHAAF , Harry E.	C/242 Infantry
WATSON , Elmer E. “Doc”	MedDet/242 Infantry
YODER , Howard Ray	Btry B/402 F.A.
ZYGMOND , Benjamin Joseph	Medic/unit unreported

**RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC.
Contributions 10 July –10 October 2016**

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Nicholas S. Mattera –50. in Memory of *Louis Calvarese M/222*;
Lynne Lecrone –20. in Memory of *Fr. Bob Weiss M/222*;
Donald P. Boehmer –10. in honor of *Donald T. Boehmer A/242*

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

All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged.

In Honor and Celebration of National Veterans Day November 11, 2016, in recognition of all American Soldiers, past and present, who have served and are serving our country, we thank you all with deepest gratitude and every day for your service in the cause of freedom, liberty, justice and peace. Please visit this web page for schedule of events planned for 2016 National Veterans Day Celebration at Birmingham, Alabama

November 10 – 11, 2016. <http://nationalveteransday.org/events-schedule>