



**A LOOK BACK – DACHAU
LIBERATION MEMORIES
APRIL 1945 – APRIL 2015, 2021**



REVEILLE

**VOL. C APRIL 2021 NO. 3
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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 – Operation Spartan Shield**

CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE Happy Easter! We can all be glad Spring is finally here. Many areas of our country are starting to open up and things are slowly getting to some sense of normalcy.

Unfortunately, conditions in Europe have not improved and in many places, lockdowns have been imposed again. Consequently, the World War II Rainbow Trail tour has been cancelled. Our tour company, Adventure Travel, advised us in late February that the possibility of travel this summer was minimal at best. The Board and tour committee agreed and the company refunded all deposits. The vast majority of travelers signaled a willingness to sign up for another tour in the future. We will consider another try when conditions permit.

Just recently, we were notified the commemoration of the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp is cancelled again this year. The Foundation will place a wreath at the site as in the past.

The 42d Division formal Change of Command is scheduled for April 17, 2021 in Latham, NY. Congratulations to MG Tom Spencer and the command team.

The RDVF Board of Directors will hold a mid-year meeting at 0900 April 17, 2021 at the NY National Guard Joint Force Headquarters. The purpose is to update the Board on the Foundation Finances and plan this year’s in-person events. **Rainbow! Never Forget! Paul Genereux, Chairman RDVF**

These photos are reprinted from the July 2015 issue of REVEILLE which covered the 70th Anniversary Commemoration ceremonies held in April 2015. These articles are highly recommended reading and may be accessed on the NEWS page at <rainbowvets.org>

Photo 1 – The Jourhaus gate Dachau Concentration Camp.

Photo 2 – James R. “Pete” Pettus and Hilbert Margol, Rainbow Division Liberators of the camp.

Photo 3 – Frank Burns, Rainbow Liberator speaking with visitors; inset photo of Frank WWII.

Photo 4 – Ivo Holtz and Sonja Holtz-Arendse, daughter of Henk Arendse, a member of the WWII resistance in The Netherlands who became an inmate and survivor of the Dachau Concentration Camp; Sonja is a member of the Dutch Dachau Committee and the executive board of the Comité International de Dachau.

Photo 5 – Frank Burns and Henrick “Henk” Van de Water, who is a survivor of the Dachau Concentration Camp. Photos of Frank Burns and Ivo and Sonja were taken by John LaVassar.

RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION 2021
 The RDVF Scholarship Program has grown significantly over the years. Today’s foundation is dedicated to its continued growth. In recent years the RDVF has approved more than \$165,000 in college scholarship money to current Soldiers of the 42d Infantry Division and descendants of RDVF members. Each year the RDVF scholarship committee reviews applications from eligible college-age students and selects winners and scholarship amounts. (Only undergraduate students are being considered at this time). 2021 Instructions are found here – [RDVFScholarships | Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. \(rainbowvets.org\)](http://RDVFScholarships|RainbowDivisionVeteransMemorialFoundation,Inc.rainbowvets.org)

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JULY 2021 ISSUE ARE DUE BY 10 JULY 2021

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Kelly Fancher, contact info above
With copy to REVEILLE editor, Suellen McDaniel

Gifts payable to RDVF (see page 8)
and DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS

(\$25/annually; \$50.LIFE for WWII veterans;
\$200.LIFE for all others) may be sent directly to

RDVF Treasurer, Peter P. Riley
(USPS above); or online at <rainbowvets.org>

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

First printed in the April 1978 issue of The Rainbow REVEILLE

God our Father, you guide everything in wisdom and love. You know the longings of men's hearts to perpetuate the memory of the great events that have touched our lives. You know our desire not to let die the recollection of our brave comrades and our beloved friends. In your goodness, look with favor on the Rainbow Memorial Foundation. Bless the efforts of those who are generously promoting this noble work.

Accept our prayers from our country and our Association. By the wisdom of our leaders and the integrity of our citizens may harmony and justice prevail and may we enjoy lasting peace and prosperity. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Robert M. Weiss, S.J., Company M, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division; Past President RDVA 1991



**26 MARCH 2021
IN HATTEN-
RITTERSHOFFEN,**
where *Céline Vix*, teacher at the college of Woerth, took her 3rd grade students to the village of Hatten (north of the city of Haguenau) where the fighting took place during the 2nd World War.

In contact with *Damien Bauer*, WWII battlefield guide and reenactor and with the support and assistance of *Serge Kraemer*, mayor of Hatten, the reenactors brought this part of our history to life with small scenes and a few vehicles.

Different themes were addressed: The genesis and the construction of the Maginot Line, the evacuation of the civilian population to the South-Western departments in September 1939, the fights of May-June 1940, the Liberation, the fights of January 45 with the famous battle of Hatten-Rittershoffen, the biggest tank battle of the Western Front. At the end of the afternoon, a small ceremony with wreath-laying took place, presided over by *Serge Kraemer*, Mayor of Hatten. *Description sent by Damien Bauer*

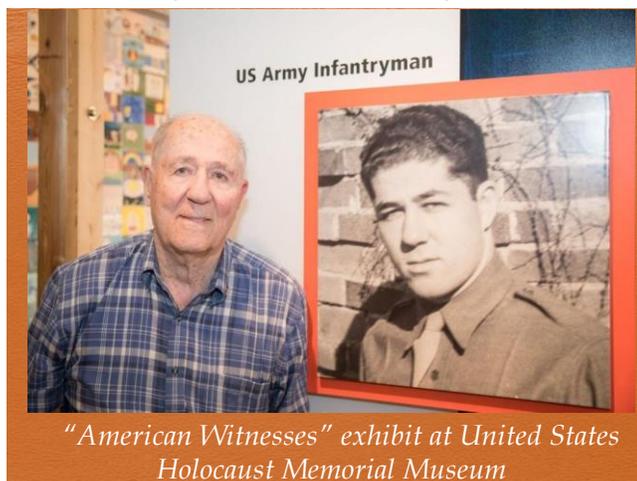


Honor was paid to Emma Keller, "For the nurse in the photo her name is Emma Keller. She was up in Hatten during the battle, and she went from house to house under a deluge of fire to see the condition of these fellow citizens and this at the risk of losing her life. She just wore an armband of the Red Cross and a small white flag. This story touched the students very much." From Damien Bauer

9 JANUARY 2021 A RAINBOW VETERAN'S STORY

Presentation to the Atlanta Churchill Society

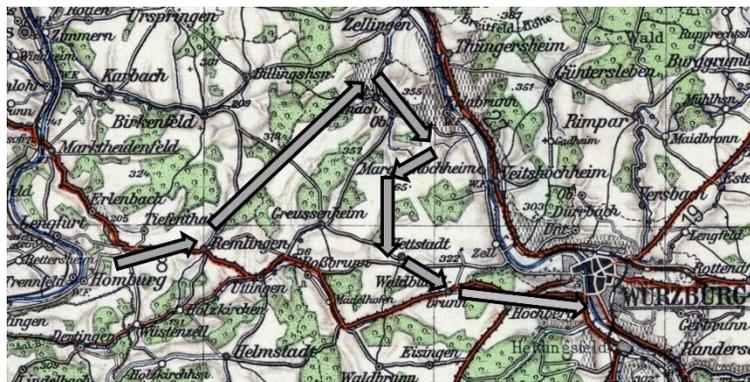
By Hilbert Margol, who served with his twin brother, Howard in Battery B, 392nd Field Artillery, 42nd Division.



This is one of the 37 PowerPoint photos shown by Hilbert Margol in his presentation to the Atlanta Churchill Society on 9 January 2021. This excellent 1:29 hour presentation is now available to view online at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - [A Liberator of Dachau Remembered - Collections Search - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum \(ushmm.org\)](https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn723791)
<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn723791>

Homburg to Würzburg on the Rainbow's Trail (April 1945)

By Robert B Munson



After the Rainbow crossed the German-French border on March 19, 1945 and fought their way through the Siegfried Line, they spent time regrouping near the small German town of Dahn. Less than two weeks later, on Easter Sunday, the division headed east from Dahn "by motor." They covered about 50 miles before crossing the Rhine River at Worms. From the Rhine, the division drove through low, forested mountains towards their next target, Würzburg. Between the Rhine and Würzburg they had to cross the Main River, flowing across the countryside like a giant "S" lying on its back, several times.

At the second crossing of the Main, I picked up the Rainbow Trail to continue following my dad's path – Robert M. Munson who was an 18-year-old draftee in "G" Company/2nd Battalion/232nd Infantry Regiment. Steve, a member of the Royal Air Force and colleague at US Africa Command accompanied me on this trip. I am retired from the Air Force, so neither of us were especially suited to judge the 232nd's

infantry tactics, but we could appreciate the terrain and see the landscape in the history.

We picked up the trail on the west bank of the river, looking across to the small town of Homburg am Main. The



232nd crossed the river here and we understood why. Homburg sits at a cut in the short, steep hills along the eastern riverbank. Now, and perhaps also in 1945, vineyards

covered the hills both north and south of the town. The infantry could cross and easily ascend the hill, advancing quickly to the east.

To cross, we drove a few miles upstream, but came back to Homburg and "followed" the Rainbow soldiers as they marched up the hill through the town on the single, narrow road depicted on old maps. They likely passed houses, many still standing, with shuttered windows, many probably out of fear for the Americans. On this Sunday morning, the windows remained closed as people were still only slowly getting up – an eerie semblance of 1945.

From the town square at the top of the hill, we continued east through the cut in the hill "with" the soldiers to the 232nd assembly area in Remlingen. From the French-German border to this town, the regiment had covered more than 130 miles over a period of four days, but now their focus changed. The whole division would devote their next few days to the advance on Würzburg and the taking of the city, probably the Rainbow's hardest fought battle.

From Remlingen the 232nd's three battalions fanned out and moved east. The 2nd Battalion marched to the northeast through the small town of Leinach and up through the hills towering over the Main valley, before turning south and joining up with the rest of the regiment.

Following the 232nd's trail, we drove east from Remlingen with the Main River parallel to our path, far to the north. The Main then turns to the south, putting Würzburg on the eastern bank and again requiring another river crossing by the Rainbow. The division, though, first had to secure the western side of the river before attacking the city.

Steve and I studied the 2nd battalion's area of movement and could imagine that the landscape in 2021 did not look all that much different than 1945 – farmland between the towns and forests covering the tops of the low hills, creating a patchwork and providing challenges to the advance.

Just west of the river, the three 232nd battalions came together as a regiment and made a hook to the southeast to following the Rainbow's other two infantry regiments, the 222nd and 242nd, towards the Main. To advance to the riverbank, the division had to follow a strategic east-west road which took advantage of a natural cut in the hills on the Main's west bank to approach and cross the river.

As the battalions turned to march east along this road, the medieval Fortress Marienberg loomed high on a hill to their left. The hill, a natural defensive point, had been fortified since the 8th century with the current castle dating from the 13th century. The hill sloped steeply from the fortress to the Main Riverbank and at the hill's foot stood three bridges across the river, all destroyed by the German defenders. To the south of

the Fortress, the hill dropped off precipitously, forcing the troops to advance down a fairly deep, narrow valley.



Steve and I drove from west to east through this narrow valley, with vineyards along the slopes and the fortress high up on our left. To our right we passed a row of houses, Würzburg expanding

down the valley. As I have been studying the 232nd's route, the chance to see this on the ground awed me. Soldiers, many 18 or 19 years old, funneled down a valley, potentially an easy target for German troops on the high ground on either side. The US Army, though, had secured the heights well enough to let the Rainbow advance without a hitch. The Rainbow's hard-fought victory would come across the river in the city of Würzburg itself.

As the 232nd moved into position, the 222nd Regiment led the assault east across the river in the early morning hours. Not having a bridge, the 222nd soldiers ferried themselves across in small boats. Later, the 232nd marched over on a Bailey Bridge constructed by division engineers on the still-standing abutments of a destroyed bridge. The 232nd now joined the fight for the city, or in reality, for the ruins of city heavily bombed which now consisted mostly of piles of bricks, concrete and shells of buildings.

Following the Rainbow trail along this 13 1/2 mile stretch from river crossing to river crossing gives me a chance to appreciate what my dad must have experienced as an 18-year-old infantryman marching across Germany, even 75 years later!

Photo 1 – Map: Homburg to Würzburg: 2nd Battalion/232nd Infantry Regiment (1940 German map)

Photo 2 – Homburg from across the Main River

Photo 3 – Heading East towards Main River and Würzburg, Fortress Marienberg High on Hill to Left

3 APRIL 1945 – Assault on Würzburg



Early in the morning of 3 April, the 2d Bn, 222d Inf, forced a crossing of the MAIN River and entered the west edge of WÜRZBURG. The initial crossing was made by the 2d Bn Rainbow Rangers in two (2) small canoes. The canoes were

sunk, but the men established a small bridgehead. The 2d Bn, supported by Co A, 142d Engr Combat Bn, crossed the MAIN River in seven (7) assault boats and two (2) rafts in the face of heavy mortar, small arms, machine gun, and 20mm anti-aircraft fire.

By 1530B, the 2d Bn had established a bridgehead in WÜRZBURG 6 blocks wide and 7 blocks deep.

The 1st Bn, 222d Inf, then crossed the river and expanded the bridgehead on the right of the 2d Bn. By 1800B, a firm bridgehead had been established. The enemy had been pushed back, and construction of a Bailey Bridge across a blown span was begun after dark. In the meantime, the 232d Inf moved by motors to the vicinity of MARIENBURG and marched to the MAIN River, prepared to cross the river when the bridge was completed. The 242d Inf moved to the MAIN River approximately ten (10) miles north of WÜRZBURG, patrolled the area north from the BRONN River to ANSBACH, URSPRINGEN, and DUTTENBRUNN, and encountered no resistance. As the river line was further reconnoitered for possible crossing sites, enemy resistance was encountered and overcome at LAUDENBACH, MUHLBACH, and KARLBURG. The Division CP moved to REMLINGEN.

From the 42nd Division Daily Narrative 3 April 1945

We honor and remember these few of many Rainbow men that day who deserve recognition -



The SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS) is awarded to ARLINGTON C. RAYMOND, 42 114 950, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142D Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 3 April 1945 at Würzburg, Germany. As a member of an assault boat crew, Private Raymond participated in numerous crossings of the

Main River in the face of intense artillery, machine gun, and small arms fire. On his final return trip, due to casualties among crew members, he loaded his boat with prisoners and ordered them to paddle back. Midway in the stream, machine gun fire struck some of the prisoners and demoralized the others to such an extent that control of the boat was lost and it started to drift into enemy territory. In an attempt to save the boat so vital to the mission, Private Raymond leaped into the water, attempting to swim and push the boat to the friendly shore. Though fatigued and weary and under intense fire, he labored to propel the boat until exhaustion overcame him and he disappeared from sight. Private Raymond's great courage and heroic gallantry were instrumental in establishing the bridgehead and instilled in his comrades the determination that contributed to the eventual capture of Würzburg. Entered military service from Oneida, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS) is awarded to EMMETT C. HORSCHMANN, 37 636 608, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142D Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Würzburg, Germany. As a member of an assault boat crew, Private Horschmann participated in several

crossings of the Main River under intense machine gun, sniper, and artillery fire. Although the enemy field of fire was excellent, he volunteered unhesitatingly for each trip, completely disregarding his personal safety, until, on the eighth crossing, he was mortally wounded. Private Horschmann's indomitable courage and unselfish devotion to duty were

instrumental in establishing the bridgehead. Entered military service from Saint Louis, Missouri.

The SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS) is awarded to



HARRY SENGER, 15 063 355, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 April 1945 at Würzburg, Germany. When the Rainbow Ranger platoon in which he was serving as aid man forced a crossing of the Main River,

Sergeant Senger, unable to evacuate casualties across the river, established and operated a forward aid station for six hours. Although working under constant mortar, machine-gun and small arms fire, casualties were kept under cover, plasma and morphine administered, and splints applied. Improvising litters, the wounded were made comfortable as possible amid the rubble of ruined buildings. In addition to operating his aid station, Sergeant Senger continued his task as aid man with the attacking elements. Although he was mortally wounded while carrying out this heroic feat, his great courage, initiative, and resourcefulness saved over 30 lives. Entered military service from Vincennes, Indiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to



ANDREW P. SENECA, 32 943 875, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 222nd Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action on 3 April 1945, at Würzburg, Germany. While subjected to heavy mortar and artillery fire, Private Senecal observed an enemy armored vehicle traveling along the opposite bank of the Main River at Würzburg, Germany. Tenaciously holding

his position, he directed effective antitank fire at the German vehicle, completely demolishing it with his deadly barrage. Through his outstanding courage and selfless determination, Private Senecal contributed effectively to the rapid capitulation of the key city of Würzburg. Entered military service from Plattsburg, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN



VANICKY, 31 380 304, Corporal, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Würzburg, Germany. As a member of an assault boat crew, Corporal Vanicky participated in four round trip crossings of the Main River under heavy machine gun, sniper, and flak fire. Completely disregarding his personal safety,

he volunteered for each succeeding crossing, despite the mounting intensity of the enemy fire, until the mission was accomplished. Corporal Vanicky's courageous and aggressive determination contributed materially to the establishment of the bridgehead and the ultimate capture of the heavily defended city. Entered military service from Torrington, Connecticut.



The above photo of his uncle, seated left, is sent by CPL Vanicky's nephew, Ed Vanicky, who is also a descendant of a WWI Rainbow Division veteran.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VIRGIL N. CHRISTENSEN, 37 467 199, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, at Würzburg, Germany. When the lead scout of his platoon was wounded during the bitter fighting in Würzburg, Germany, Sergeant Christensen deployed the members of his squad and ordered them to lay down a base of fire. Moving through heavy machine gun fire, he made his way to the injured soldier and carried him to a position of comparative safety from where he was evacuated to the rear for medical treatment. Through his great daring and heroic action, Sergeant Christensen saved the life of a wounded comrade. Entered military service from Parker, South Dakota.

Photo is from the family of SSG Christensen.



EATING ON THE RUN (PART TWO)

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian



In the last *Rainbow Reveille*, we discussed combat rations consumed by Rainbow Division soldiers during the Second World War. This time, we'll focus on front-line chow from 1945 to present.

It's no exaggeration to say the U.S. military found itself with millions of C-rations left over from World War II. These canned meals fed our fighting men throughout the Korean Conflict, as well as plenty of soldiers serving in peacetime. Eventually, though, WWII-vintage stocks ran out.

By the late 1950s, an improved type of field ration known as the Meal Combat Individual (MCI) began to appear. Career G.I.s, however, saw little difference between an MCI and the old C-rat apart from a few different menu items. While nutritious, a steady diet of combat rations got boring quickly – plus, one day's supply (three meals) of MCI weighed a hefty 5.5 pounds. Soldiers and Marines serving in Vietnam sometimes preferred to go hungry rather than hump these heavy, bulky cans all over the jungle. They needed a lightweight ration, one containing dehydrated or freeze-dried food, that would stand up to the rigors of modern combat.

In 1964, a revolutionary new product known as the LRP (Long Range Patrol) ration appeared. Packaged in a thick plastic bag, this meal featured an entrée such as spaghetti or chili con carne

as well as instant coffee, gum and a chocolate bar. Until 1975, the LRP also came with four cigarettes. While lighter in weight and less bulky than a C-rat, the LRP had its issues. It took a lot of water to prepare one, and purified water was a precious commodity in Vietnam. Also, LRPs didn't contain enough calories; soldiers often complained of low energy after subsisting on these rations for a while.



Attempting to address continuing problems with the MCI and LRP, scientists at Natick Labs in Massachusetts developed a self-contained, lightweight individual field ration they called the Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE). It was first fielded in 1981. The MRE could be eaten hot or cold, and did not require additional water to prepare. Each meal contained 1,200 calories, and had a shelf-life of between 3 and 7 years. Initially, rations came

packaged in a dark brown plastic envelope; the wrapper's color was later changed to a light tan.



Contents included a main course, side dish, dessert or snack, crackers or bread, a spread made of cheese, peanut butter or jelly, a powdered beverage mix, and eating

utensil – usually a spoon. The MRE accessory pack normally contained chewing gum, a water-resistant matchbook, napkin/toilet paper, freeze dried coffee, and seasonings like salt, pepper, sugar, creamer and/or Tabasco sauce.

In the beginning, MRE menu items were designed more for nutritional content than an appealing taste. Entrees like Chicken A La King and Ham Loaf often went uneaten, while troops nicknamed their unappetizing Smoked Frankfurters “the four fingers of death”. One early entrée, the Pork Patty, was as indescribable (to a polite audience) as it was indigestible.



Meals Ready-to-Eat have evolved significantly in the 40 years since America's fighting men and women first started eating them. Since 1990 each MRE has included a flameless heating element, which promises hot food so long as the soldier has a few drops of water for his or her heater, a rock or something to lean it on, and ten minutes to let the chemical reaction work.

Comments about the MRE's bland taste have led to a small bottle of hot sauce appearing in many meal packages. A moist towelette was also added for quick clean-up afterwards.

Nowadays, menu items better reflect the cultural and social diversity of our armed forces. Today's soldiers can enjoy a beef taco MRE, as well as lemon pepper tuna and even pepperoni pizza. Vegetarian options include creamy spinach fettuccine and elbow macaroni in cheese sauce.

There is a Meal Religious Kosher/Halal, made for servicemembers who keep certain dietary requirements, and

another for refugees or displaced persons known as the Humanitarian Daily Ration. For those training or fighting in arctic environments, a specially-fortified Meal Cold Weather provides adequate nutrition. The Tailored Operational Training Meal is designed to replace bag-lunches for soldiers (such as those in a classroom environment) who do not require an MRE's full caloric intake.

Contractors manufacture about 3 million MREs a year. While they are sometimes provided to civilians (normally survivors of a natural disaster), the vast majority of these handy, nutritious meal packages are consumed by U.S. servicemembers operating in field training or combat situations.



Soldiers always complain about their food, but those serving with the 42nd Rainbow Division have seen combat rations come a long way from World War II's three-menu (Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner) K-rats to hot pizza in a bag.

What was your favorite field ration? Send your stories (and recipes) to Patchais@aol.com – maybe we'll publish them in a later issue. Mine was the MRE ham slice – cut it up, mix in a canteen cup with 3 tablespoons water and an equal amount of powdered egg mix filched from the cooks, then heat for 5 minutes over the engine block of a (running) 2½ ton truck, stirring often. Serve with scalding hot coffee.

Photo One: A soldier enjoys a Meal Ready-to-Eat pizza developed by scientists in the Combat Feeding Directorate at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Massachusetts. (Photo: US Army)

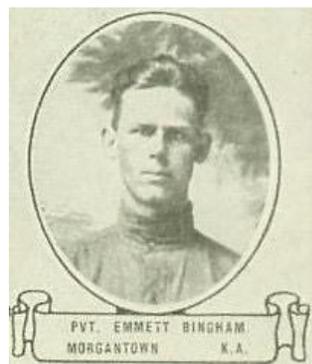
Photo Two: A first-production (1982) MRE in its distinctive dark brown plastic package (Photo: Wikipedia)

Photo Three: The contents of a 1986-issue MRE. Clockwise from left: vegetable crackers, reconstituted strawberries, beef entrée, accessory pack (coffee, chocolate bar, matches, sugar, salt, creamer, gum, and toilet paper), cookie, spoon, peanut butter. (Photo: Wikipedia)

Photo Four: The Flameless Heater, part of all US Army MREs since 1990. (Photo: Wikipedia)

Photo Five: A current (2019) issue MRE. This package includes a Mexican-style chicken stew entrée, rice and beans, beverage base powder, M&M candy, crackers, cheese spread, and pretzels. (Photo: US Army)

JOURNEYS THROUGH TIME AND REMEMBRANCE, “LEST WE FORGET”



Everett Ray Seymour of Connecticut (Co. L), are to this day,

Recorded in two separate sources, 142 men who served in the “Fighting 69th”, 165th Regiment, 42nd Division WWI rest under the care of the dedicated personnel of Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, France. 75 gravestones mark their dates of death on the same day – 28 July 1918. Two of these men, Private Vernie Emmett “Emet” Bingham of Kentucky (Co. E) and Private

honored and remembered by their families and brought to life through the dedication of their descendants, Cathie Jarvis, great-niece of Pvt Emmett Bingham; and Keith E. Miller, great-nephew of Pvt Everett Seymour. In 2018, Cathie and her family made possible Emet's name to be added to the Kentucky National Guard Memorial, Frankfort KY and created his own biographical page, there.

<http://www.guardmemorial.com/html/bingham-emet.html>



Photo two – French photographer, Beatrice Dahm and Hubert “Bert” Caloud, superintendent of Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, FR by the grave of Pvt Emmett Bingham, 16 December 2020

Photo three – Keith Miller at the grave of his great-uncle, Everett Ray Seymour, printed in Seymour's Great War Title reference, “Lest We Forget,” as referenced in Seymour's Great War is from Kipling's poem, “Recessional” (1897). For the Rainbow Division history of 28 July 1918 and the Commemoration of the 2nd Battle of the Marne is found online. [Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation](#)

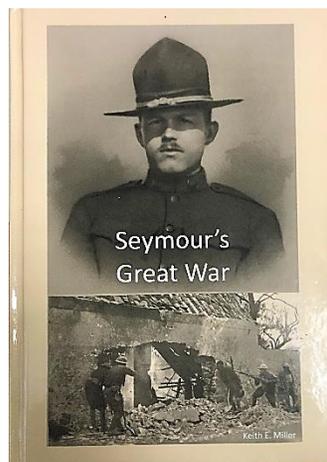
MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS SPENCER TAKES CHARGE OF 42ND INFANTRY DIVISION

Latham, NY, United States
04.17.2021

Story by Eric Durr, NYNG
New York Army National
Guard Major General Steven
Ferrari, left, the former
commander of the New York
Army National Guard's 42nd
Infantry Division stands with
his cased command flag next to
the new division commander,
Major General Thomas Spencer
during division change-of-
command ceremonies at New
York National Guard
Headquarters in Latham,
New York on April 17, 2021.



(U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Sgt. Trevor Cullen)



Keith E. Miller has recently completed a powerful testament dedicated to his great-uncle and the men of the *Everett Ray Seymour American Legion Post 78* in Ridgefield, CT, dedicated in 1920. Until now, the most personal document *Post 78* possessed to tell the story of Pvt Seymour, “a small-town hero of The Great War,” has been a letter written to his family by Father Francis P. Duffy, Chaplain of the 165th Infantry Regiment (69th New York) in 1918.



This work of 118 pages, *Seymour's Great War*, goes far beyond this Soldier's story, however; it is a handbook for those who wish to consider deeply, answers to how and why a need for a Soldier's life in service to his country in The Great War began and ended, and in between – become as witnesses to the honest simplicity of endurance, suffering, courage and loyalty forged in battle, often in words written by other soldiers of his regiment and division - knowledge that gives each Soldier's life an unforgettable place in history.

Following each chapter is an inviting blank page, whether or not intended to record observations, questions and notes, it is an encouragement for any student of history to do so and any teacher of history to recommend. Keith Miller continues his research into this history. He may be contacted at millerkeithe@sbcglobal.net

Oise-Aisne American Cemetery superintendent, Bert Caloud was of great assistance in Cathie and Keith's individual searches for information.

Photo one – Pvt Emmett Bingham is from Cathie Jarvis

"Tom, you have a critical job ahead, leading one of the Army's 18 divisions. We all know that you are the right leader for this huge responsibility," said Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the Adjutant General of the New York National Guard.

"I wish you and the entire division success as you prepare the division for future operations," added Shields.

"Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division, you have my commitment that our Soldiers are the highest priority," Spencer told the audience. "We will deliver Soldiers and units to the fight that are prepared and ready, and we will lead with optimism, sensitivity, and being risk adaptive."

"We will take reasonable risks because we will accept the 80% or 90% solution verse striving for perfection," he stated.

The 42nd Infantry Division, with headquarters in Troy, N.Y., has 20,000 Soldiers assigned to elements in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire.

The 42nd Infantry Division was first organized in World War I by National Guard units worldwide.

The Division's first chief-of-staff, then Col. Douglas MacArthur, said the Division would stretch across the United States "like a rainbow," and the nickname stuck.

In World War II, the "Rainbow Division" landed in France and fought across Germany, taking several significant cities, liberating the Dachau Concentration Camp, and occupying Vienna.

The change of command ceremony featured the colors of the brigades, which fall under the 42nd Infantry Division for training purposes. Spencer replaces Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Steven Ferrari who is retiring after 40 years of service in the military and command of the Division (which he took over in February of 2017).

In January 2020, the division headquarters led by Ferrari mobilized for operations in Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The Division provided command and control for National Guard and Active Component forces.

"While deployed, Steve and his leadership represented the Army National Guard and the entire Northeast partners in an outstanding fashion," Shields told Ferrari during the ceremony.

The 42nd Infantry Division is headquartered in Troy, N.Y. It has training oversight responsibility for National Guard brigades throughout the northeast, including units in New York, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

"The strength of the Soldiers in the Division without a doubt comes from our families, they are the bedrock and the reason we serve," Ferrari said. "As we part ways today, I could not have scripted a better ending to my 40 years in the military and know that my time spent here was without a doubt the

highlight of my career," he added.

Spencer has served in numerous leadership and staff positions in his 34-year career as an officer in the Army National Guard. He was commissioned through the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps in 1987.

Spencer served in numerous operational assignments in his career, including; platoon leader in Desert Storm, a company commander in Somalia, an operations officer for the 197th Field Artillery Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and most recently in 2020, the Deputy Commanding General of Support for the Division in Kuwait.

He has held numerous field artillery and aviation staff assignments and leadership positions at the battery, battalion, and brigade levels across New Hampshire and New York.

The ceremony was held at the National Guard's state headquarters in Latham, N.Y., in front of a limited crowd due to COVID standards. In World War II, the "Rainbow Division" landed in France and fought across Germany, taking several significant cities, liberating the Dachau Concentration Camp, and occupying Vienna.

Following World War II, the Division became part of the New York National Guard. Division Soldiers responded to numerous natural disasters, including the North Country ice storm of 1998, the World Trade Center attacked Sept. 11, 2001, Hurricanes Irene and Lee in 2011, and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

In 2005, the 42nd Infantry Division became the first National Guard division headquarters to go to war since 1952 when the headquarters led 23,000 Soldiers in North Central Iraq.

The Division now provides training oversight for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain), 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 197th Fires Brigade, 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and the 369th Sustainment Brigade.

Today, the Soldiers who wear the famous 42nd Infantry patch continue the Division's long-standing tradition of service to the nation, state, and community.

"I am truly humbled to have the opportunity to command such a great organization with such a historical past. Our Soldiers are proud professionals who do so much for the National Guard," Spencer said.

Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, Inc
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All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged

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WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL FILE

Deaths Reported Since January 2021

BELCH, Robert M. 142nd Engineer Combat Bn

DONNELL, Jack Cullen unit unreported

DUFFIN, Dale L. H/242 Infantry

FIELDING, Russel C. A-T Co./222nd Infantry

HUCKSTEIN, Gilbert E. unit unreported

KARADIMOS, Peter Spiros 1Bn/232nd Infantry

KLOKE, Edward unit unreported

MACGILLIVRAY, Robert Btry B, 392nd F.A. Bn

SADLER, Leon G/242 Infantry

SPENCER, Chester W. H2B/222nd Infantry

SOUTHARD, Charles Grover G/242 Infantry