



President's Message



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CHARLOTTE: QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

The National Reunion at Charlotte, N. C. July 7-11, 1999, was featured by the fact that it was attended by 550 Rainbowers, the smallest in many years. Conversely, it was a resounding success in every other way. We were treated to fine accommodations, good food, great entertainment, very nice hospitality room facilities and interesting and pleasurable tours. Business meetings were fast paced and not long drawn out affairs. Chairman Charles Paine, and buddy Tom O'Neill are to be congratulated for a great reunion. They were greatly helped by a most competent committee composed of Mr. and Mrs. George Wallace, Don and Lois Samolinski, John and Rosemary McGovern, Don and Joanne Dart, Don and Pearl Segel, Dorothy Nagy, Christine Ledford and Jack Baker.

The early bird party was a great success with live music. The luncheon was featured by an inspirational talk given by noted author and historian Keith E. Bonn. Keith brilliantly edited the Nordwind Epic, "The Final Crisis". Keith also asked Lise Pommois, author of "Winter Storm" to stand. She was given an overwhelming round of applause. The memorial service, conducted by Revs. Norman Forde and Robert Weiss, was a moving event. Ted

Johnson, who gets better each time, gave his usual moving and inspirational rendition of the Champagne hour.

The showpiece of the reunion, the banquet, was an unqualified success under the direction of Emcee Otto Schultz. General Kinley, commander of the 42nd Rainbow Division Mechanized of the National Guard, delivered a masterful and moving speech. He also presented the Distinguished Unit Citation, on behalf of the Department of the Army, to members of Anti-Tank Co., 242nd Infantry. Sol Feingold accepted for all his comrades.

VIPs at the head table were as follows: President Dick and Rosanne Tisch, President-Elect, Harold and Edna Mellinek; Auxiliary President, Delores Kallaher and Red Cap, Clarence Griffith; Auxiliary President Elect, Barbara and Redcap Dee Eberhart; Otto and Kay Schultz, PNP Bill and Mary Kenny (Foundation Chairman), Norman and Shirley Forde, Rainbow Girl Peggy Fleming, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Paine.

So came to an end another gathering of the Brotherhood as we looked forward to perhaps another year, God Bless and keep you until we meet again!

Dear Rainbow Family and Friends,

It was a great honor and privilege to be installed as your President last month in Charlotte. I thank all Rainbowers for having the confidence in me, and I will do everything in my power to uphold the tradition and dignity of this office.

My goal will not be much different than those of the Presidents before me, as we are all trying in to increase the membership, but it seems to be a downhill struggle. As I mentioned in my acceptance speech we have only two avenues to pursue in this matter. The first thru our children and grand children, and the second is to obtain more membership thru the 42nd Infantry Division (M). I don't know of any other ways that we can perpetuate the ideas and ideals of the RDVA to carry us past the present and into the future. We all must work harder to obtain these goals. At this stage of our lives we are losing more members than we are gaining.

We are a great organization and I will do everything within my power to see that we remain that way not only till the year 2010, but for many years beyond.

We must try to get more members to attend the Mid-Year and National reunions as this might be the only way to keep in touch with each other.

I would personally like to thank Gil Koehler for his many years of dedication as Sergeant-At-Arms, as he now turns over his duties to George Van Allen of the 142nd Engineer (combat) Bn. and welcome Charlie O'Hagan K Co 232 Inf. as the V.P. South Region, and it goes without saying, the very best of everything to Pete Pettus the President Elect.

I have just received and accepted the resignation of Norman A. Thompson as Liaison Officer, and in his place have appointed Herman J Bergeth effective immediately.

Hope to see you all in San Diego and Cincinnati.

Yours In Rainbow,
Harold G. Melinek

Living PNPS

1964-1965	Theodore A. Johnson
1971-1972	Charles F. Marshall
1972-1973	Herbert E. Klinedinst
1977-1978	Ivan H. Wallace, Jr.
1978-1979	Hugo E. Grimm
1982-1983	Vassil J. "Rude" Evanoff
1984-1985	John D. Carr
1985-1986	Carlyle P. Woelfer
1986-1987	Frederick W. Goldsmith
1987-1988	Dee. R. Eberhart
1988-1989	John M. Keyser
1989-1990	Dolian Harris
1990-1991	Donald L. Segel
1991-1992	Rev. Robert F. Weiss, SJ
1992-1993	Jack R. Hildreth
1993-1994	Romeo J. Fagiolo
1994-1995	John J. McGovern
1995-1996	Vern Smith
1996-1997	John L. Whisler
1997-1998	William Kenny
1998-1999	Richard Tisch

Living PNAPS

1964-1965	Frances Marshall
1970-1971	Mary Brewer
1972-1973	Nan Klinedinst
1979-1980	Edith Sayers
1980-1981	Oriana Grimm
1981-1982	Jean Kemmerer
1982-1983	Winnie Baldock
1983-1984	Blanche Trout
1984-1985	Bee Miller Burge
1986-1987	Loretta Schneider
1987-1988	Pearl Segel
1988-1989	Catherine Woods
1989-1990	Pear Emlett
1990-1991	Joanne Dart
1991-1992	Myrtle Wallace
1992-1993	Peggy Fleming
1993-1994	Beverly Koehler
1994-1995	Virginia Duhacsek
1995-1996	Betty Owen
1996-1997	Mildren Fagiolo
1997-1998	Mae Coyle
1998-1999	Delores Kallaher

DUES 'R DUE !!!
Your Reminder

CUT-OFF-DATE
NEXT ISSUE
October 1, 1999

Actions of Anti-Tank Co./242nd Infantry At Hatten-Rittershofen, France-Jan. 9-12, 1945 (Taken from official records. This action earned a unit citation)

At 0001 hours., January 9, 1945, A company, 1st Bn. reported contact with an enemy patrol at a blown out bridge near pillbox #9. Captain Vincent Caringola, company commander of ant-tank company, alerted his 1st platoon, upon hearing this word. As his 1st platoon was supporting the 1st Bn/242, he proceeded to their C.P. to find out full particulars. At 0225 hours, Hatten was receiving heavy enemy artillery fire, all platoons of the Co. were fully alerted at 0400. At 0500, A Co. reported that enemy infantry was attacking in force. At once, Captain Caringola started back to his first platoon. At 0515, S/Sgt. Milmont squad leader of the third squad, first platoon who was at his gun position, reported this attack, by phone to Lt. Richard H. Wells and T/Sgt. Wallace A. Enge, that is squad was being fired on by enemy rifle and machine guns. Upon trying to call the 1st and 2nd squads, Lt. Wells found that communications had been broken by the preceding artillery barrage. He then directed S/Sgt. Milmont to check the remainder of his men to see that they were in position and all right, while he, Lt. Wells, checked on the 1st and 2nd squads. At 0530 hours S/Sgt. Milmont, T/4 Elmer Marshall, PFC. Joseph Loncaric, and PFC. E.L. Thompson made their way back to the gun position by crawling through the intense mortar and artillery fire, after checking on the LMG crew with the third squad. At 0535, Lt. Wells and T/Sgt. Enge contacted the first and second squads. They found these squads intact but receiving heavy mortar fire. At 0545, the Lt. and Sgt. started back to the third squad position, but on the way, they became aware that third squad position was untenable, because the enemy had infiltrated to within a few hundred yards of their position, and had captured an American TD, one hundred yards to their left front. . . PFC Raczkowski and PFC. C.L. Thompson had held off the enemy foot troops with a 30 cal. LMG up to this time. At 0600, Lt. Wells arrived at the third squad position by crawling and running through a hail of fire. The enemy turned the captured TD's 76mm. gun on the third squad. A direct hit by enemy mortars silenced the LMG. PFC. E.L. Thompson and CPL. Gullett brought the 57mm AT gun to bear on the captured TD, but a well aimed enemy rifle grenade landed on their position, wounding two members of the crew. The enemy kept coming and

when they were within 50 yards of the 3rd squad position, that squad, under Lt. Wells tried to get back to the edge of Hatten to fight from the houses.

At 0615, Lt. Wells, Sgt. Milmont, T/4 Marshall and PFC. Loncaric reached the edge of Hatten. Lt. Wells ordered the men to take some PWs to the rear and to contact Captain Caringola, on the way, at the Bn. C.P. They were to ask for further orders, while he tried to contact the 1st and 2nd squads. Capt. Caringola ordered the men to take up positions with the riflemen protecting the Bn. C.P. At 0720, the second squad was attacked by the enemy. With the aid of their 50 cal. mg., they were able to drive the enemy off. At 0800, Lt. Wells, having contacted the 1st and 2nd squads, returned to the C.P. Capt. Caringola told Lt. Wells to go to the third platoon and have them move their two right flank guns to help the third platoon. At 0820 hours, the third squad the third platoon (the left flank gun), saw four enemy tanks coming from the woods to their extreme left front, heading towards Hatten. The third squad's field of fire had been, originally, coordinated with the fire of the two M18 TDS, and was not in position to fire on the enemy tanks. The TD sitting near them had been abandoned. S.Sgt. Richard R. Danilowski, knowing that his gun was the only weapon in a position to prevent the enemy armor from penetrating the first 1st Bn. lines, moved his gun from the prepared position into the open, under artillery fire, and opened up on the enemy tanks at 0825. Although the nearest tank was 800 yards away, one enemy tank was destroyed, and the rest driven back into the woods. At 0900 enemy personnel carriers and tanks began coming from the woods... Lt. Raymond L. Kiplinger, Jr., third platoon leader, came from right flank gun, at this time, and the 57mm gun was again moved to a more advantageous position, under artillery fire. This time, a personnel carrier and it's occupants were destroyed with the ammunition. The rest of the enemy vehicles veered off to the right and were soon out of range. At 0915, Lt. Kiplinger noticed that the third squads ammunition was running out and that the squad would need help. He took off, in his jeep to get ammunition and assistance from the other two squads. At 0925, T/Sgt. Enge, who had been fighting with a rifle squad, reached a position where he saw the 2nd squad of the first platoon

firing their 50 cal. mg. at enemy troops within a hundred yards of them, and S/Sgt. Joos directing fire of their 57mm gun at the enemy tanks which had veered away from the third platoon. A heavy concentration of mortar shells was falling between Sgt. Enge and the second squad, making it impossible to reach them. One enemy tank was hit before enemy infantry overran their position T/Sgt. Enge had picked up an SC300 radio at the C.P. He now took it to the 1st squad of the 1st platoon and established communications at 0945 hours. Lt. Wells contacted Lt. Kiplinger on the right flank of the 1st Bn. and told him what had happened in Hatten and that he could move his two guns to the left flank to help his 3rd squad. Lt. Kiplinger told Lt. Wells that ammunition was critical and any help in that area would be appreciated. Lt. Kiplinger directed T/Sgt. Lindsey to move the two guns, and with a jeep load of ammunition, started back to his other gun. Stopping on the way, he phoned 1st Bn. commander and asked that ammunition be sent to him. At 1000, Capt. Caringola, seeing that tank support was needed badly, went from Hatten to Rittershofen, under heavy enemy artillery fire, in order to contact a Co. of the 48th Tank Bn. While there, he contacted Lt. Danny McBride, platoon leader of the second platoon, and ordered him to go forward to reconnoiter for positions on the west edge of Hatten and to move to Hatten as soon as possible. Lt. James V. Yates, mine platoon leader, who was at the Co. C.P. in Betschdorf, hearing of the situation, ordered the A Co. kitchen truck to be loaded with mines and brought forward while he searched for a position for a mine field to day armor penetration into Hatten. At 1030, Capt. Caringola returned to the 1st Bn. C.P. where he saw Lt. Wells, who informed him of the ammunition shortage of the 3rd platoon. He told the Capt that he had a truck load of ammunition to take to the 3rd Platoon. At 1045 Lt. Yates arrived at the C.P. and he and Capt. Caringola decided to lay a hasty roadblock across the main street of Hatten near the church. At 1055, the Capt. sent Cpl. James Derry to Rittershofen to pick up two daisy chains which had been laid there.

To be continued

Actions of Anti-Tank Co./242nd Infantry
At Hatten-Rittersshofen, France-Jan. 9-12, 1945
(Taken from official records. This action earned a unit citation)

typo "Derry"

For the second time that day, Cpl. Berry had to go back on a heavily shelled road and this time to pick up mines already fused. At 1100, the 1st and 2nd Squads of the 3rd Platoon were moving into position when enemy tanks were sighted coming from the woods. There were at least fifteen enemy tanks and ten armored personnel carriers streaming from the woods. At this critical moment, Lt. Wells arrived with his load of ammunition. The Third Platoon had been spotted by the enemy when they fired previously. The enemy tanks and the Third Platoon opened fire simultaneously. The ammunition unloaded, Lt. Wells went back to Hatten to tell the Capt. of the situation. The first shells from the enemy tanks attack on the Third Platoon severed a tree a foot above S/Sgt. Robert S. Wiggins' head and killed Cpl. Milam of the 2nd Squad, mortally wounded S/Sgt. Joe Mastel, 1st Squad leader, and wounded Lt. Kiplinger. T/Sgt. Lindsey jumped behind the gun and started firing again. One shell hit approximately ten feet behind the 3rd Squad gun, showering the crew with dirt and snow. Pfc. Hicks dropped from his truck from which he was unloading ammunition, wounded in the stomach, and the Squad Leader Richard R. Danilowski clutched his face with his hands. Although wounded, he continued to direct fire from his exposed position. Both guns continued blasting away and the tanks returned their fire. When the tanks were out of range, enemy mortar fire started dropping in the woods. Four more enemy tanks and two personnel carriers were left blazing and wrecked on the field.

At 1100 hours, in Hatten, the 1st Squad of the 1st Platoon reported over their radio to Capt. Caringola that the enemy tanks were coming into range. Over the radio, the sound of the 57 could be heard firing. Pvt. Golden reported that he was hit and that the squad had got two Mark IV tanks. Then the Capt. heard a tremendous explosion and that was the last heard from the 1st Squad of the 1st Platoon. At 1120, Cpl. James Derry came into Hatten with the daisy chains of mines, and started to lay them. At this time, the Mine Platoon arrived with one hundred mines. They, immediately, began laying the hasty mine field. Two men were nicked by sniper fire, and shrapnel was raining down, but the Mine Pla-

toon doggedly stuck to the job at hand. At the completion of this field, one Squad under Sgt. H.P. Raymer started back after more mines to set up road blocks to other avenues of approach. The two remaining squads deployed on each side of the street to cover the mine field with small arms. At 1135, just as Lt. Yeates and Capt. Caringola had gotten the last mine and man placed, an enemy tank rolled down the street and commenced firing at the building where the men of the Mine Platoon were deployed. Enemy tankers sprang from the tank and tried to remove the mines, but were quickly mowed down. Seeing that it was impossible to get through, the enemy tank retreated. The MLR was now broken and the 1st Bn. had an exposed flank. Lt. Kiplinger of the 3rd Platoon rounded up the remnants of a Platoon from B. Co., and with these and his own men preserved the flank of the 1st Bn. which was very precarious at this time. At 1155 the enemy tanks began forming south of Hatten for what appeared to be a sweep along the woods in which the 3rd Platoon and one Platoon of B. Co. was located. A terrific barrage was laid down on their position, but the attack did not materialize.

At 1215, Capt. Caringola again left Hatten along the shell battered road to Rittersshofen to contact the TDS. This time, there was a tank battle along the road and the Capt.'s Jeep was hit by enemy machine gun fire. At 1235, he contacted the TDS and the Second Platoon of the AT Co. At 1245, a tank again approached the mine field in Hatten and blasted the houses in which the Mine Platoon was located. At 1255, the enemy drove pigs down the road in an attempt to detonate the mines, but small arms and machine guns slaughtered the pigs. At 1300 hours, Lt. McBride, Platoon Leader of the 2nd Platoon, informed S/Sgt. Solomon Feingold and S/Sgt. Donald Veach of the 1st and 3rd Squads respectively, to prepare their guns and crews for immediate movement from their positions in Rittersshofen to Hatten where they were to engage enemy tanks that had broken through. The 2nd Squad under S/Sgt. George Peterson was to remain in position because their Squad truck was back at the Co. C.P. for emergency motor repairs. At 1305 the two guns with Lt. McBride in the lead proceeded to leave Rittersshofen.

The road leading into Hatten was under observed enemy fire and the vehicles passed between friendly tanks and infantry who were firing at the enemy from both sides of the road. At 1310, the guns reached the first intersection in Hatten where they were met by Lt. Wells, Capt. Reiter, Co. of G Company, and the 1st Lt. in charge of 3TDS. Lt. McBride was informed that he could not move his guns any further because the enemy had control of all the town except a few houses near the intersection. At 1315, the road was sealed off by the enemy and all communications were out. This completed an encirclement of our men in Hatten. The officers immediately prepared to set up a perimeter defense and hold out as long as possible against the expected enemy attack. One TD was assigned to cover the road leading in from the south, the 2nd TD to cover the road leading in from the north, 3rd TD to cover the road leading in from the west, and the 3rd Squad A/T gun to cover the main street looking east. The 1st Squad gun was to remain in reserve. As the guns and TDS moved into position, enemy snipers opened fire from buildings on both sides of the street. An enemy Mark IV tank, trying to enter the southern road was knocked out by the TD covering the area. At 1330, one enemy survivor was captured. Information obtained by Sgt. Feingold, who spoke German, confirmed that this tank was one of five approaching the area. Meanwhile, Lt. Wells told the other officers that he was going to make an attempt to drive through the lines with his Jeep to contact regiment and inform them of the situation: at the same time to ask for artillery fire. He called his driver T/5 George Abel and the two of them set out. At 1415, seven Germans came from behind a building with raised hands yelling "Don't shoot" in German. The Lt. told the men of the 3rd Squad to hold fire, but this was only a trick to get better positions. The Germans broke for the doorway of the houses on both sides of the street and opened fire on our men. S/Sgt. Veach ordered his gunner, Cpl. Moreschi, to open fire on not only the house the Germans had fled to, but every house in sight.

To be continued