

HELPMATE BULLETIN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OF THE

284TH F. A. BN. WWII

Issue 98-6

November 21

1998

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Greetings, Helpmates,

Here's wishing all a happy holiday season. This year is rapidly becoming a part of history.

I trust that a few of you noticed the queer look of the printing on pages 1 and 4 of the last bulletin. This is usually the dying gasp of a part of the printing mechanism, and generally heralds a call to Progressive Business Systems and a call to my dirty basement for some small adjustment, at no small price. But I can't complain too much. The copier has been a God-send, and in general has done it's thing well.

Just before the reunion, I got a call from Al Grisham letting me know that Gibby Mitchell was in no condition to make that long trip, as he had been failing a bit in regards to health. Gibby has been a steady at all of the reunions, and he will be missed. Thanks for the news, Al.

Dick Williams called on the 16th to let us know that part of his surgery has been done. His aneurysm has been repaired, and in Dick's opinion he got a good result. While under care, he developed some heart complication, but it seems to be in better shape after medical care for the thing. He will be having some more surgery in November, for the nagging back pain which had bedeviled him for a long time.

Ruth and the kids are fine. His son got a new house, and Dick got to make some suggestions for that development.

Dick will not be able to make the reunion, but will try to call us there to see how things go. We thank you for the call, and will be in touch.

I called Shirl Dawson, and she was in her usually good mood. She will not be able to get to Florida for the reunion as some pressing family business will keep her occupied at that time. We will miss you, Shirl, but we understand. Shirl has been in touch with some of the "C" Btry. group, and asks me to pass on her

best wishes to all at the reunion.

I got an E-Mail from Carol McElmurray (Joan Nightingale's daughter) on Sept. 20 with news that their 4th generation arrived on 9/19/98 in good shape. Jonathan Guy Mauck weighed in at 7#, and he and mother are doing fine. Carol wished that she could have been there, but such was not possible at the time. Thanks, and good luck on the new Nightingale.

Several letters arrived just before the reunion. Bob Rosen sent a note letting us know that he was going to arrive a little late, and Pat and Pat Entile wrote to let us know that they were not going to be able to make it this year. I received kitty donations from both of the above, and many thanks for the letters, and the donation.

I received an E-Mail from Irv Merrill with the bad news that he was not going to be able to make the reunion, but that he wished me to pass on his best to all of the attendees.

And got several E-Mail msgs from John Wasilewski letting me know that he has been able to make up some of the photos which his dad had taken on his European war days, and he would attend the reunion on Thursday, with the accumulated processed photos.

Now for the reunion news. The list of those who attended was exactly as printed in the last newsletter, with the exception that Gib Mitchell was unable to make it, and the Hartleys made just a day visit. There were 3 guests, the brother and sister-in-law of Marge Crismond, and the son of Ed Wasilewsky came on the last day.

Several got there on the day before the official opening, and had a great time relaxing, and eating, then eating and relaxing. This is always great visiting time, and several of the

group enjoyed the early festivities. On registration day the attendees slowly, and irregularly checked in, and joined the group. There were several who came in late on the 6th, too late to add to the chatter which filled the meeting room. Marge had many snacks available, and a fresh pot of coffee was always ready.

On Wednesday about all of the group went into New Port Richey and invaded the gambling boat which leaves early in the AM, and gets back in mid-afternoon. There were a few in the group who made expenses, but not that many. I did my usual thing for the boats, I lost about 12 pounds - lost my ass. But that is nothing new. I always seem to contribute in those affairs.

That evening was spent reliving many old memories, most poorly remembered. Our new attendees, Pat Maier and wife took good advantage of former battery pals, and really got into the conversation. Pat seemed to enjoy renewing his old acquaintances, and we all enjoyed seeing him get along so well with the group. He added so much to the meeting, and I will be very surprised if he misses many reunions in the future. Of course, his living in Oregon does not make it easy to get to our spots, but I am sure that he will try.

At the dinner we had the musical group whom Ray knows play our well known 1940 tunes, and this was enjoyed by all. After the dinner we had a planning session for the 1999 reunion, and it was decided to have it in the middle east, somewhere around the Pittsburgh area. Mel Donaldson will work with me, and if it does not work out at Pittsburgh, he may elect to again host the one in the Detroit area. There were the usual round of welcomes, the introductions of the guests and our newcomers, and then general thanks for those involved in Helpmate productions.

In general, this represented one of the best of our reunions. We had no pressure to get up to do something planned, and we were able to catch up on any news in which we were interested. We ate together for the most part, in a local restaurant recommended by Marge and Ray Crismond. The excitement of having a new registree was exceptional, and it is always a plus when we get to entertain one of the family of our group.

Our banquet on Thursday PM was held at the Pappas Restaurant. We had one of the private rooms, and 43 were in attendance at the affair. We had our usual excellent Greek Salad, and a buffet meal with all sorts of delicacies

I received a letter from one of Wilfred Nelson's nephews who is writing an article on the impact of his relatives who were in WWII. He has some of the pictures much like John Wasilewski brought to the reunion. I called him to see how I could help him, and he has the impression that our history is the basis for Dr. Kittell's book. I told him that our real history is in "Helpmate Ready" which is a compiled article taken from our monthly after action reports, and that Dr. Kittell had written excerpts from his memory of different anecdotes and stories which he experienced. He is going to quiz his relatives about these sources, and will modify and expand his article after his research. Neil Johnson was the gentleman's name, and I will keep in touch with him concerning his writings.

I am going to list all of the persons who have an internet location.

HSMITH4580@AOL.COM	HARVEY SMITH
CHAZZ62687@AOL.COM	NORB Obecný's SON
A1COM@USAOR.NET	AL De MONACO'S SON
ENT3@PSU.EDU	EUNICE TIBBOTT
JOHNW98765@AOL.COM	ED WASILEWSKI'S SON
DGRIBSKOV@KALAMA.COM	PAT MAIER'S DAUGH
IRVV42@AOL.COM	IRV MERRILL
HLPMATE284@AOL.COM	JOHN B. SUMMERS
BAM@FONE.NET	CAROL McELMURRAY (J. nightingale's daughter)

If any more of the helpmates have internet locates, please let the message center know and their name(s) will be added to our list. I plan sending more messages to our group, so be watching.

Clair Schneider sent me a splendid article on General Wood, the commanding general of the 4th Division. It detailed the ups and downs of this C.O. throughout the war, and his trials with the ultimate leaders of the army. Clair always sends me stuff I have to digest in order to understand. But this was interesting to me, and send more, Clair.

I received another call from Dick Williams the other day and I gave him the report on the

reunion. He is feeling well, and his cardiologist is running his show at the time, and surgery will of necessity be at his direction. He and Ruth are well, and hope to be able to get into the workings of the battalion in the future.

While down in Florida Ray notified me that some of the local telephone numbers were being changed. The 2 of our group affected will be:

Ray Crismond (727)946-0837

Harold Taylor (727)799-1359

I have started work on the 1999 reunion. I called Harry Podolsky, one of the former medics, and he is going to get me some leads to people who may be able to get a reunion in line there in Pittsburgh. Harry has had some heart trouble in the past, and I surely thank him for a hand on the site, especially since he knows the area well. I am going to call Al De-Monaco also, so this will be a Medics Alert in 1999. What a way to get out of the 20th Century.

I received a letter from Harry Danneman before going to the reunion, and he tells me that he had his right kidney removed when a mass was noted in that area. To be certain that all was OK, he started chemotherapy late in Sept. and thru October. Because of this, he was unable to make the reunion, and wishes us well for that event. He missed Springfield because he had a cast put on his right leg to protect an inflamed muscle. Maybe next year.

Harry included a kitty donation which was much appreciated. Keep us posted on the bad stuff, Harry. We're all behind you with the health problems.

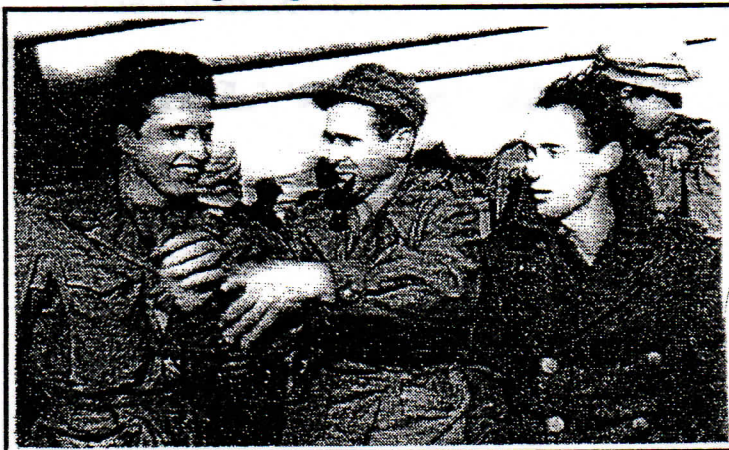
On Nov. 9 I received a note from Stan Chmura with a donation. He tells me that Clara is having some significant arthritis problems at this time, and has been under care for her pain for the recent past. No other news from Stan, and we hope that they come up with something for the arthritis problems which plague us all.

Thanks for the note, and for the donation.

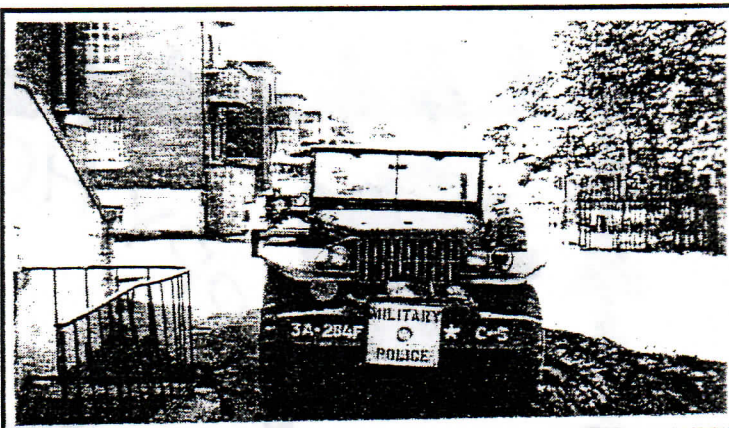
I am going to close this issue, and place a few of the photos which John Wasilewski scanned for us in this issue. I will try to put more of them in future issues, because they are very good mementos of things past. I hope they will copy well, but sometimes they do not.



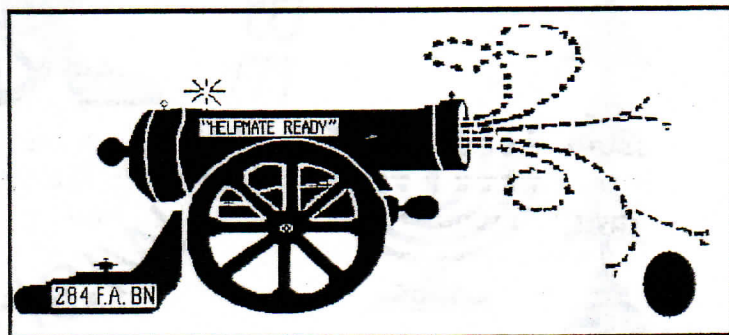
Virgil Pugh and Ed Wasilewski



Pat Maier, Virgil Pugh, and Jim Thurman on "Savannah"



"C" Battery on M.P. duty in Bad Tolz in September 1945



As Ever

JBS

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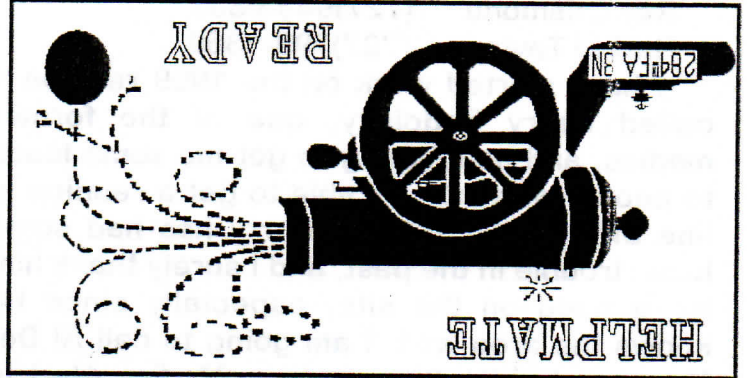
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How about some birthdays. We aren't getting any younger, you know.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 09 | ALBERT SCOVILLE | 83 |
| 12 | H. L. SANDERS | 90 |

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

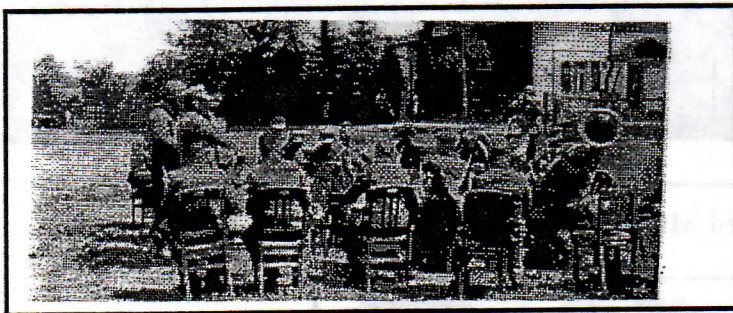
- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 08 | VIRGIL PUGH | 80 |
| 13 | WILLIAM SHICK | 80 |
| 20 | CHARLES ZIMMER | 76 |
| 23 | MOSES SWEETGALL | 85 |
| 30 | RAYMOND SANDERS | 74 |

YOU MADE IT ANOTHER ONE, GUYS. HANG IN THERE, FOR MANY MORE.

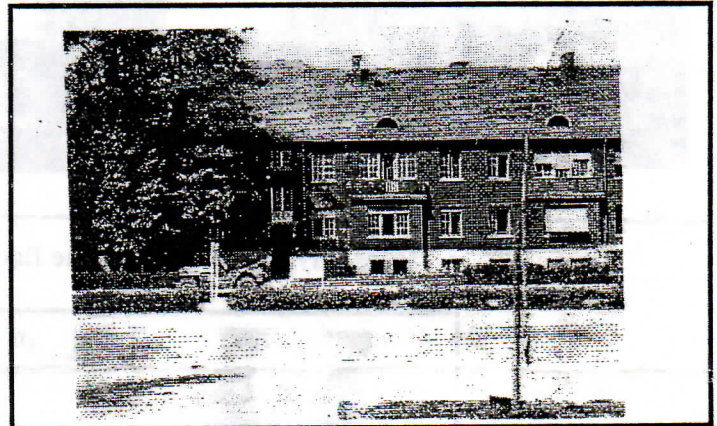
I am just going to fill this page with a few more pictures which were made available by John Wasilewsky.



View from deck of Liberty Ship - Crossing the Channel -



PW Band playing at lunch. Auerbach Germany



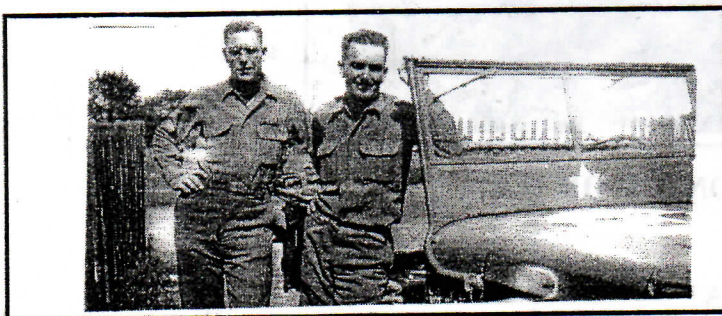
Wasilewsky's "home" in Dachau, Germany - Sept. '44

Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of
P.F.C. Frank R. Havel
 (Hdq. Btry. 286th F. A. Bn.)
 who departed this life in service of his country in Luxemburg on December 25, 1944 at the age of 19 years and 10 months.

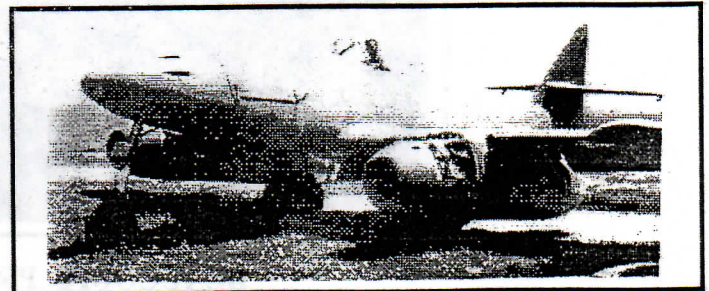


P W Enclosure #25. Our Munich duty station. May '45

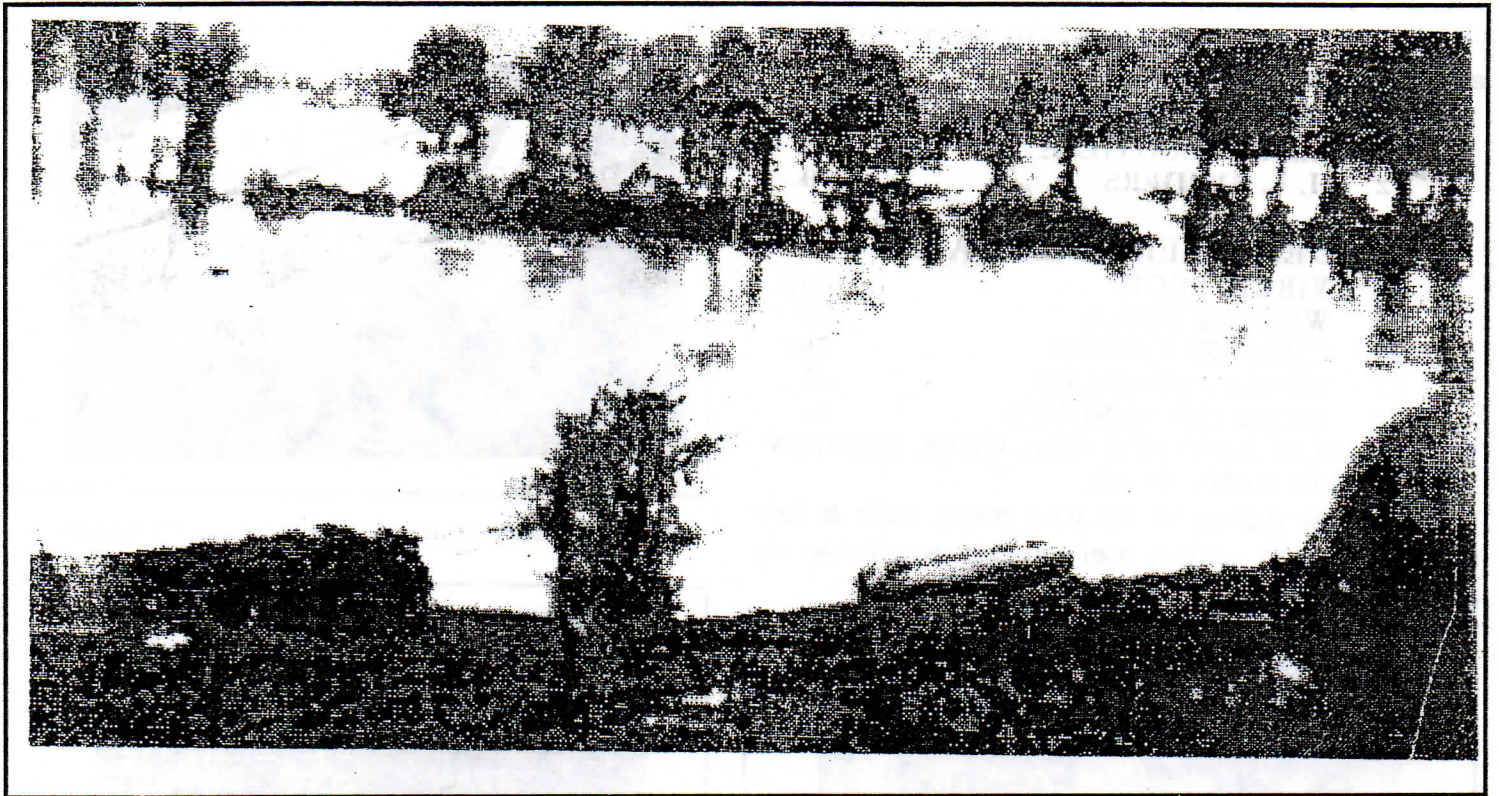
Does Anyone Remember This Soldier. He is not in our history.



Texas well represented. McFerrin and Boehm. (Munich 1945)



German Jet Plane - developed too late for good usage



Does anyone remember the flooded MOSELLE RIVER?



SORRY ABOUT
THE QUALITY
OF THE COPY,
BUT PICTURES
DO NOT COPY
TOO WELL.

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PALOS HEIGHTS IL 60463-2028

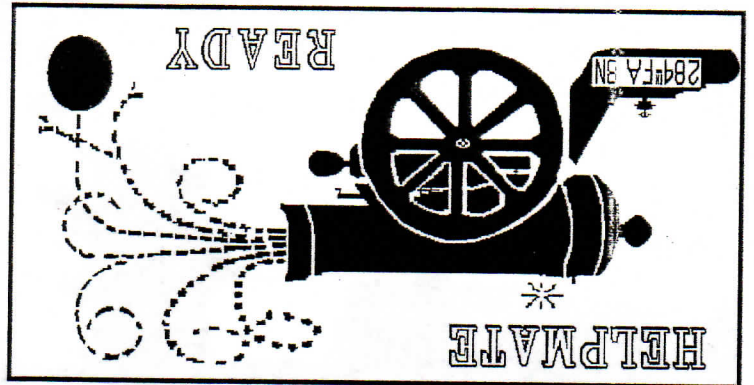
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