



HELPMATE Bulletin

Official Newsletter

of the

284th F. A. Bn. WWII

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Howdy, Helpmates,

Got the last issue out a day late, but still timely. Missed by about 4 hours getting news of a call from Jerri Polson, but there always seems to be something.

Jerri was inquiring about trying to get a lift to the reunion with someone who was going to the function. She had been trying to catch Clair Schneider, but had been unable to do so. I told her that that rascal had moved in the near past, but that he was still in the area. She does not want to fly, and won't drive to our reunion, which is understandable. As I had put into the last newsletter, try to help some of our group, if you have room.

I had mentioned in the last Bulletin that George and Dorothy Ralcewich had called in regards to a note from Margaret McCready. Margaret has had oodles of medical problems in the past including lung cancer, broken hip (which was replaced), and chronic bronchitis. A checkup for the bronchitis prompted x-rays of the chest, and she has had oodles of trouble with the treatment for the tumor. She is in an experimental program for the lung problem, and the tumor has shrunk 50% with the new medicine.

Margaret has friends in Ireland, England, and Denmark, and she visits them whenever possible.

Thanks Margaret, for your letter to George, and thanks George for giving us the report which she outlined.

Margaret (Rita) is going to try to get to the upcoming reunion, as she has relatives close to Livonia. She had wanted to go to earlier ones, but something always came up.

Rita has been in touch with the Jerry Brenans in the past, but has heard nothing in the past 2 years or so. She also keeps in touch

with Bob Rosen.

Good luck, Rita, with the medical problems.

I received a returned Bulletin from Henry Curran—Refused. Handwritten on the label was the note—"deceased". So I have no idea as to when, how, or why. His name is removed from our roster. Getting smaller.

I received a pleasant call from Clair Schneider the afternoon on the 22nd. Carole had changed his computer locate, and he thought it had been messed up somehow, and it had. I learned that he had received the recent bulletin, and he was sorry to see some of the bad news. He and Carole are doing well, and I did finally get to say a few words to the lady of the house, so I cannot say any longer that Carole is a ghost, as she is real. She agreed with me that Clair was a case, and I always thought that only an angel could live with him. It was nice to get to talk to the folks after a long absence.

Clair tells me that his front yard is a bird sanctuary, there are so many of the creatures hanging out there. And his garden is beginning to produce strawberries, raspberries, peas, and the like, but no carrots. Didn't ask why, but no carrots.

After discussing many things in many ways, we closed the conversation, and I thank these nice folks for talking with me.

I had the bulletin to Ms. Siggie Larsen returned as "No Such Address". It has been delivered for many years this way, but something changed there. If anyone is in touch with Ms. Larsen, please have her send me her correct address. Her name is removed from our roster otherwise. And we have had too much of that lately.

I will be going back to Florida sometime in

the next week or so. The condo will be empty for 2 weeks, and I want to get some stuff done there for the kids. Son John always wants to buy new stuff to replace things which are perfectly fine, and working well. I think that our growing up during the deep depression made us aware that things which work, don't fix. A penny saved is a penny earned.

Getting ready to make another trip to Florida. I will have a little more time this trip, and I hope things will turn out better. I will try to see the west coast group for sure, and I have a few things to do at the condo for the kids. My niece, the computer guru, worked for a huge conglomerate of publishers, and they sold all of their good assets, and now are breaking up their office. So Denise goes the way of all the business concerns, out the door. She will be OK, tho. Anyhow, she is in New Smyrna Beach in a realty firm, and is starting a new livelihood. She will check up on me, for sure.

Just checked the website of the 284th, and we have had 1015 hits on the spot. It has been a good site for some other units, apparently, and you have noticed that we have an interested foreign person now and again. John W. is doing a great job with that area, and we can't thank him enough for the trouble he has gone to in this project. If there are other things you would like to see on the locate, just let us know, and we will give it a trial. I will be in touch with John while I am in Florida, and can keep up with the news if needed.

Back after a not too productive visit to my second state.

My initial chore was negated by the July 4 holiday. I drove up to my realtor manager in New Port Richey, and the office was locked, TIGHT. I did not take into consideration the fact that some people make a week-end out of a holiday, and that is what happened. I made a few phone calls, and finally ended up visiting with the Crismonds. Lost my posterior playing our usual card games, but had a nice lunch with the Hartleys and the Ralcewiches at the Cracker Barrel on I75. Went back over to Auburndale, and went with my brother Gene to Sebring, where we visited brother Dale. The latter had called Joe Molnar's phone number and got a message that Joe was not in the

Florida area, so apparently Joe and Alice are in shape to winter in Sebring. We had a nice visit and I went up to New Smyrna Beach to do my intended chores for the kids.

The estimates I requested for tiling, for new sliding doors to the patio, for other jobs which were required just did not come easily. I hung around the condo for about 5 or 6 days before I had the required figures, and no explanations for the tardiness was given. That's business in the state, I understand, but it sure wears out the welcome. A niece who has moved to NSB did entertain me, so I had something to do for a few evenings. Oh, well, I wasn't doing anything important, I guess, but it sure aggravates one.

Back in St. Louis on the 16th, and I got through the Orlando airport without being stopped, or searched, or anything.

The only mail I received was a returned Bulletin sent to Joseph Kiedasch in Berwin, who is unknown. If anyone knows above, let him know that his name is being removed from our roster, and from the mailing list.

I have had a few E-mails from our members, but nothing which needs to be scattered to the Helpmates.

Shirley Dawson will be in Livonia on the 9th. She is coming with her grandchildren, and that is good news. It is always good to have Shirl on board, and other than getting tickets in the Carolinas, her relatives liven up the proceedings also. Good to hear it, Shirl. We all love you.

Bud DeFeo is on the internet a lot. He sends some of the best jokes I get. Wouldn't be surprised to know that I send a few of his offerings to some of my best contacts.

John W. sends news that he is on a trip with his family. They are going to practically duplicate a trip I took with some of my kids in the past. Gettysburg held us up, big time. That is a fabulous spot, and many historical events are tied up in that Penn. town. Have a good trip.

The mail is deader than ever. I had a bit of E-mail from an elderly lady who wondered if I were looking for, or looking to be, a helpmate. I explained to her that this represented the army code name for our WWII unit, and she told me that she was surprised to find a really functional screen identification. I thanked her for her interest, and got back to real time.

Our weather has been super hot lately. The heat index last Sunday was 110 degrees, and it felt just about like that when you got out into the stuff. We have had good rains, in general, so the grass stays green, and requires mowing, of course.

I have just received a returned Bulletin from Mary Bergeron with the information that she has moved, and left no address. If anyone is in touch with Mary, please let her know that her name is removed from the mailing list, and we need her current whereabouts if she wishes to receive further mailings from the message center.

Another very hot weekend. We do have a brisk breeze, but it is from the south, which is always warm. The humidity in St. Louis tends to get overwhelming, so that makes it even more undesirable. If you don't like the way things are, BITCH. It helps you, and that is the important thing. You know that squeaky wheel story.

I will try to give the names of those who are already registered in Livonia. Mel will keep me posted via E-mail, I hope. Registrants are slow to come in early. Many of us don't know what today holds, and have forgotten what we did yesterday. Don't get — — — you know.

I am going to list some of the features which the motel has enumerated for the guests.

- Complimentary Breakfast Bar
- Complimentary Parking, Cable, USA Today
- Coffee and tea available in lobby 224 Hrs.
- On premise health and fitness center.
- Handicap rooms available.
- 3 conference rooms
- Most non-smoking deluxe rooms

Walking distance to Olive Garden, I-Hop, and Bob Evans, with nearby shopping centers and theaters.

Less than 20 min. from Airport, Casinos, Ford Museum, Greenfield Village.

Near I-96, 1-275, other major roads.

There are other goodies in the profile, but the ones listed directly affect us.

All in all, this promises to be a fine spot for our reunion. I will try to get those registered before I finish this issue, but our group is not one which registers early, I know from experience.

We are starting the dreaded "dog days" here and things just stay nasty, move slowly, and we roast with the heat. I guess it is just about the same everywhere, but it gives us something to gripe about.

Mel Donaldson has sent me the early registration list, and it follows.

- George and Dorothy Ralcewich— - - 8th
- Ray and Marge Crismond 9th
- Shirley Dawson Group 9th
- Mel and Betty Donaldson 9th
- Charles & Virginia Zimmer 9th
- John B. 9th
- Bill and Marian Hartley 10th
- Bob Rosen 10th
- Dave and Virginia Hawkins 11th

And I know that the Wasilewski group will plan to be there, and there are still 6 weeks left to pick up a few more steadies.

I have had no takers on the offer of a partial ride to Detroit, but time remains. Maybe no one is reading the Bulletin. Maybe they don't trust me. Lots of possibilities.

I cannot believe that something reportable has not happened this month. The group sure is living in Dullsville, or have turned down their hearing aids, and lost their glasses. I had not planned closing this for 10 days from now, but I suspect that nothing more will be reported by the middle of August. I do not think that I will have enough time for another issue before reunion time, so will see you in LIVONIA.

As Always, JBS

SEPTEMBER, 2002						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

