



Official Newsletter  
of the  
284th F. A. Bn. WWII

August

17

2004

RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER JOHN B. SUMMERS, 5494 ABERDOUR LN. ST LOUIS, MO. 63129  
INTERNET LOCATION : HLPMATE284@AOL.COM TEL. (314)845-2086  
BATTALION WEB PAGE LOCATION: [HTTP://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM/FABN284/INDEX.HTML](http://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM/FABN284/INDEX.HTML)

reetings all,

Hope you all had a pleasant 4th of July. We have about 60 fireworks sales spots, and I am sure they were all busy before and after the holiday. We always have a river festival each year, and this one was no different. Air shows, food, rides, games, and oh yes, fireworks. I did not feel up to the strenuous program it would cause. It was about a mile walk from a place to park for many people.

First thing to come to my mind is the progress of my pelvic fracture. I was released from the hospital in 3 weeks, and was followed with home visits for 2 more weeks. I was let out to dry 2 days ago by the visiting nurse, by my attending Orthopedic MD, and finally by my internist. I am able to drive when sking me to go to a locate concerning citizens of the US who were honored at the French 60th D-Day Memorial. It was a complimentary item on the life and works of our own Abe Plotkin, who received the French Legion of Honor Award which was bestowed upon 100 Americans as symbolic gesture for the millions of our boys who fought in the war.

For those who have computers, the item is found at locate:

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/103-06032004-310960.html>.

Abe has done so much with the Holocaust Education Resource Center, and the coordinator of that Scranton organization reported that stated of Abe "He really is a man who wants to leave the world a better place." We all knew Abe in the earlier days, and a look at this article is well worth while. We are proud of you, Abe.

Had a bunch of family bad luck this past week. My niece, Linda, became a young widow earlier this year, and last week she suffered a

major stroke which settled in her right side, and really did some damage. She is now in the hospital recovering from the acute effects of the CVA, then prolonged and long-term therapy will be required. She is 59, and has been close to our family all her life. I am planning a week-end trip over to the hospital if she is u to the visit. Anther Don't Get Old is due here.

Somehow or other our internet locate has been altered on the front of the newsletter, so I corrected it. If anyone cannot get to it with this locate, let me know. We have had over 1160 hits on our spot since it began.

I also sent the necessary literature to have yourself registered in the WWII Memorial. I put Bill Hartley's name in this week, and it will be available soon. Years ago they were collecting money for the purpose of building the memorial, and my name was automatically placed in the memory, but you are given a number when you submit an entry, and you can edit, add to, correct, or change the data to some extent. DO IT!!!! DO IT!!!!

I received a nice letter from Les Lenker on July 1. His health is fair, with the exception of some macular degeneration in his right eye. He uses his left eye to find his favorite cat, Buffy. He sent in a picture of "A" Btry while we were at Camp Rucker. It is small, but I am going to try to have my son enlarge it, and I will bring it to the reunion in October.

Lester added a donation check for our dwindling Kitty for which I thank him a lot.

Says he is still looking for the squaw who can cook a tongue, but doubts that he would eat it.

Thanks for the letter, Les. It is nice to have some news to report.

Now for a bunch of new addresses, and bulletin returns.

I had an address change for Richard Rizzio from his Traverse City, MI locate to:

10260 Betsie Creek Dr.

Interlochen, MI 49683-9199

So make this change in the roster, please.

And a bulletin return from Mary Prince - undeliverable as addressed. I am resending it, and hope I get it through. Will report later. And it came back, so if anyone is in touch with Mary, tell her that she is lost for now.

I received a returned bulletin from Joe Molnar. No forwarding address. Will send him one to his winter address, or he must be dropped.

Also change of address for Leo Sullivan

131 Bedell St.

Freeport, NY 11520-5139

The bulletin from Henry Kiessling was sent back as undeliverable as addressed. If anyone knows Henry, tell him to correct it.

I received news that Lorene Althoff died in January of this year. She wrote me several times years, and was a friend of Virgil Pugh. I wrote the people who reported her death a nice note, and I will remove her name from our roster.

Well, bad things happen in threes, so watch out all of you. My daughter Nancy fell out of her door Tuesday of this week, exactly as I had about 4 years ago. I broke my left shoulder at that time, but she was luckier. She got sort of the same injury I recently suffered, but I don't think she broke anything. She's using my walk aids, and I am glad to get rid of them for a while.

Received a welcome call from Clair Schneider about the 19th. He had just talked with the Stensbergs, and things were going well there. Of course, we discuss everything, but solve nothing. He did not make his annual trip to the east coast this year when his son went. He is in good health, but something else must have gotten in his vision, and we old ones only do one thing at a time. Clair had called me while I was in the hospital, and left his mark in my mail box. He did not neglect reminding me that us older guys have one foot on a banana peeling, and I sure agreed with that.

We discussed everything from the election to the use of artificial sweetener, but solved not a thing. We try, though. It is always great to hear from Clair. He was going to call Ray Crismond later, he thought.

He was sorry to hear about Bill Hartley. He did not know him while in service, but got to know him well through his battalion activities. I suspect that we still are in touch with about 70 of the group by mail, but under 20 thru close contact.

I had asked my brother Dale to see if Joe Molnar was still in Sebring. Dale told me that his phone number was changed, and he thought it was an Illinois number (Cicero, Ill he believes). If anyone is in touch with Joe, have him send me his new address. If I hear more, I will put it in later.

I received a letter from John and Helen Ehmen concerning the death of Alice Edwards. She had been ill for some time, and on May 1 she passed away. I had reported that she was being helped by friends, but did not survive.

John has had rheumatoid arthritis for many years, and is still being bothered with this condition. He is otherwise doing well after having had bypass and aneurysm surgery in the late 1990's. He enjoys reading the newsletter, and I thank the Ehmen's for reporting Alice's death.

I drove over to my home town yesterday to see my brother Gene and his wife. They came up from Florida for a few weeks to visit family, and I decided to pop over to say HI. They are doing well, and will be back in Florida in a few weeks, and I may just go down to see them.

My poor aching hip is getting better, I think. I have more strength in the crazy leg, and the pain is much improved. I kept telling you not to get old, and darned if I didn't ignore my best advice, and do it myself. I got hearing aids at the same time I was in the hospital, and I still am underwhelmed with the crazy things.

As I earlier mentioned, things happen in 3's in this world. A week ago my nephew, Gene's son) was working in his insurance office in Robinson, IL., and one of his clients was coming in to pay her insurance premium. Well, she did just that. She hit the accelerator instead of the brake, hit the parking block at the build-

ing, and it bounded her car right into the office. My nephew was standing next to the desk by the wall, and the desk knocked him into the room opposite, bruised up the secretary working at the desk, and also banged up the driver also. Allen, the son, was taken to the ER along with the driver, and ambulances from the next county took the other injured to the local facility.

The orthopedic doctor on call told my family that there was no way they could handle the injured nephew, whose leg was badly deformed and obviously fractured. I happened to know the doctor there, and he wisely recommended that Allen be treated in a major trauma center, and the one chosen was here in St. Louis. In any event, he was brought to St. Louis, and was checked in at the St. Louis University Hospital for treatment. He has been here now for 9 or 10 days, has had to have a rod placed in his left thigh, and is being checked out to see if a heart murmur he has is significant. He apparently had been turned down for military service, but did not tell anyone about this problem. So he is just now being completed for this defect, and will probably go home tomorrow, very much in discomfort, and will be taken to a rehab facility for more therapy.

I have had no more contact with our group, so I am going to get this on the way. The hurricane season is about to start in earnest down in Florida, and I plan getting down there soon to see what needs to be done about the situations there.

Take care of yourselves, and keep in touch. See you at the reunion.

As ever, JBS

**TAHITIAN RESORT**  
**2337 U. S. 19**  
**HOLIDAY FL 34691**  
**284th FIELD ARTILLERY BN. (HELPMATE)**  
**PHONE 1 - 727 - 937- 4121**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVING: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTING \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by: Cash \_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_ Pool Side Room \_\_\_\_\_

Room type: Double Queen \_\_\_\_\_ King \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_

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