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Greetings all,

I have been trying to find enough to write for a decent newsletter, but waiting until summer would make any news far out of date.

Several last minute greetings should be acknowledged. I received greetings from the Mel Donaldson's send greetings to all, and hope to see me in Florida.

Tony Lembo's greeting to all had a note to tell me that his first greeting was sent back due to a bad address. He tells me that all is well in their neck of the woods, health is relatively good, and wishes all the best of the season, and a wonderful 2007.

Several newsletters have been returned. I had sent Warren Lunsford a second letter, and it was returned, again with no definite cause. I have removed his name from our list, but would ask anyone who knows anything more about him, I would appreciate knowing.

And Arnold Krell's bulletin was returned as an UNKNOWN patron. Bob Oberrender's issue was also returned as an UNKNOWN. If anyone knows for sure the new locates or the current status of these members, please let me know. I have removed their names but will be happy to re add them if someone can help.

I have a new address for our Michigan member, Richard Rizzio. He now resides at:

10280 Betsy Crk. Dr.
 Interlocken, MI 49643

And Bob and Helen Mielke are living with their son, leaving Michigan for warmer climes. In his note to me, Bob told me that he planned to get together with George Ralcewich and Jim Carney in the near future. His new address is:

17031 Coral Cay Lane
 Fort Myers, FL 33908.

They had a get together in south Florida, and it was greatly enjoyed by all. I have pictures of the 3 couples, but I cannot get a decent

enough copy to add to this issue.

In the middle of February I received a great call from Ed Rafferty. He has enjoyed his late rejoining of our Helpmate Group. He tells me that his wife passed away some time ago, and he greatly misses her. Things are otherwise going OK for him, and he will try to stay in closer contact with us. That is great, Ed.

I have gotten several calls from Clair Schneider in the past months. I think he gets anxious to blend his nonsense with mine, and we talk long and lively, but don't say much. He is deeply concerned with nature, and the environment, and I agree greatly with most of his concerns. He sent me a CD about the "Dog Whisperer", and it was really good to see, and I told him that he and Babe would agree on most of his concerns. He always had a bright outlook on things, and I enjoy greatly his calls. He told me that on one of his calls to "Mugs" Stensberg he got no answer. No other news on this development, but will watch for some resolution of this unusual event.

I received an E-mail from the grandson of Lewis Johnston, one of our members who was an observer for our fire direction section. I was able to find his name in an old roster which Ronnie had kept, and asked him to contact our John Wasilewski, who has perfected the science of digging info from the internet. On our records he was carried as Johnson, and this may help with more info for his relative. I understand that they are going to try to get together in the near future, and Clair S. tells me that he also is in touch with this relative. The grandson is going to try to follow some of the same territory his ancestor had served in when they go to Europe next year. I surely appreciate the help that John gives me in so

many matter related to our battalion.

I had another E-mail from a relative of a WWII soldier whose name was Dawson. It was not our Frank Dawson, but I believe it was one who joined us after the war was over, and I sent this contact to John Wasilewski. He is now working with Mr. Justin Dawson, and I believe he may have joined the outfit at war's end when the group was involved with the trials of the Germans. That has been inconclusive, but will be solved. John W. suggested that I put his name in the newsletter to see if any of the group know this Pvt. Dawson. H E L P ! A later E-mail from Justin revealed that he compared some photos of the area of the MP work after the war, and the photos which his grandfather had compared exactly with those of the Bad Tolz work. He may have been one of the transfers which occurred after the end of hostilities. More on this later.

I heard from Ray Crismond via E-mail that the small local group had a mini reunion in the middle of March. George and Dorothy Ralcewich, Mel and Betty Donaldson, and Ray and Marge represented us, and hopefully won the war again.

I have had several calls from George and Dorothy Ralcewich in the past months. They are anxious for me to get my bones back down there so that we can lose our dough at the Hard Rock Casino in Tampa. On one of the calls George told me of the mini he and Dorothy had with Jim and Mildred Carney, and Robert and Helen Mielke, and, I believe, the Mel Donaldson's. They had a very congenial group discussion, and promised to do the same in the near future. George said that the group had a great chat-fest, and was most enjoyable.

In one of my phone talks with George R., he mentioned that Mel Donaldson had been put in a local hospital, but I have since gotten notes from Mel and Betty, and they are back in Michigan again. No mention of anything serious with Mel. Hope all is OK there.

I got an E-mail note from Ruth Williams telling that all is OK there. She had seemed to be on the internet much less frequently that earlier, but she tells me that some things have changed, and she does her computing early in

the day now. Enjoys the newsletter, and thanks me for keeping it up. Keep writing, Ruth. Always good to hear from you.

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Fred Beltz has developed complications from his diabetes, and is now living in an assisted living facility. John W. sent me an E-mail with an article listed on E-bay with military material owned by a Fred Beltz. In looking at it, one of the dog tags had an Ethel Beltz as his wife, and some very small pictures in the lot had a picture which surely looked like a young Fred. I reviewed my roster listing, and his wife's name was Ethel. I tried to contact the person who had told me where Fred was to be living, but was unable to get anywhere there. If any of you know where Fred is, or are in contact with him, let him know of our concern. He usually writes me several times a year, and there has been nothing in the past couple of years. Thank you in advance for any help you may give us about Fred.

John Wasilewski sent me a note giving me the locate in York, PA of a school which has been given an endowment "The Ethel Beltz Memorial Fund". The fund is administered by the "Christian School of York". The Principal of that school told him that he did not know Fred, but will help us if he can.

In the same E-mail, John W. has suggested that we get photographs of several of our KIA group to be added to the web-site. I will place the list he gave me:

Cpl. George B. Groff, Jr.	"C"
Pfc. Walter A. Uminski	"C"
Pfc. Milton J. Dempsey, Jr.	"B"
Pvt. Pletz M. Belk	"C"
T5 Patrick Walentowski	"HQ"
Pfc P. J. Garman	"B"
Pvt. Everest Maskell	"C"

If anyone can send a photograph of these Help-mates to John Wasilewski, he will scan it, and place it on the internet. The photograph will be returned to the person who sent it to John at this address:

7534 Pottawatomie Dr.
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Thank you for any help you may give us.

Now, a short bit on my trip to Florida this January and early February.

Had my usual legal problem reviewed, and a promise to keep the irons in the fire.

Met with Jeep Rafeld and had lunch with he and Gerry. Jeep has significant eye problems, and no longer drives. They both are in good general health, and enjoy the southern living.

I had mentioned to Jeep my interest in light coin collecting, and we reviewed a few of the old coins he had, and he was kind enough to give me a silver dollar of my birth year, which I had not in my stash. I was so grateful for his giving me this coin. We ate lunch at a different Chinese restaurant, and while not as good as the China Jade fare, it was good, and much enjoyed. It was good to see Jeep and Jerry. I had trouble with the telephone connection, and I still don't know why.

Ray and Marge had a very busy schedule on the first week I was there, but the Ralcewiches and I visited the Hard Rock Casino several times, and I left my donation as I usually manage to do. We had a leisurely lunch, and I wandered back to my brother's spot after our activities.

My brother Gene and wife Helen were in the process of closing down a small business doing trophy and medal work. It was just a small project, but it sure took a long time getting it closed. Helen's son from Illinois was able to come down to do the hard work, and it finally got closed. She is now a retired shop owner, and I will bet that they will drive each other crazy in retirement.

I spent several weeks at the condo, just hanging around. I am not a sun lover, and the beach was too cool for much to go on there, so I loafed, and just puttered around until I came home.

I had several card games with Ray and Marge on my second visit to the west coast, and as usual, got my ears trimmed by their better understanding of Mah Jongg,

I received a call from George Ralcewich on the 21st of April, and he has been in touch with the new residents in the area. They are planning a mini sometime before the Carneys leave for PA, which will probably be in May. I am invited to attend, and I just may be able to make it. Will see.

Received a call from Ed Rafferty, and was

saddened to hear that his wife died a year or so ago. I believe that she had some form of leukemia, and he sorely misses her. He is doing OK, as things go, and has not done too much visiting lately. We are certainly sorry to hear of this development, but the world turns, and we must turn with it.

**YOUR
NEWS
WOULD
HAVE FIT IN
RIGHT
HERE.**

DO IT!!!!

Guess I had better shut up. Stay healthy, and write a bit for the newsletter, OK??

As always,

JBS

