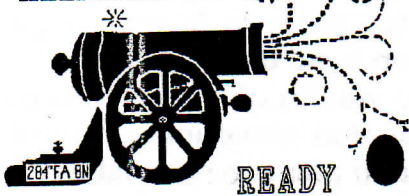


HELPMATE



HELPMATE BULLETIN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OF THE

284TH F. A. BN. WWII

APRIL 11

2001

ISSUE 01-2

RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER JOHN B. SUMMERS, 5494 ABERDOUR LN. ST LOUIS, MO. 63129
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284th FA BN WEBSITE: [HTTP://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM//FABN284/INDEX.HTML](http://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM//FABN284/INDEX.HTML)

Hello, Helpmates,

I got a call from Bud DeFeo just after I had printed up the last issue, and some of you may have a sentence at the last which promised you the reunion facts in this issue. That is what I had planned, and what I will do, if I don't forget to do it.

Even as I was fixing up the last issue for mailing, I received a notice from the Post Office that Lynn McAmish no longer was to be found in Reno. I have never heard much from her, but I had continued sending the Bulletin, and it has never been returned until now. If anyone is in touch with Lynn, please let her know that I am unable to send her the publication, and to notify me if she wishes me to continue sending the bulletin.

I have been getting some background info on our sister battalions. One of the 512th had placed an article in "THE BULGE BUGLE" and was complaining that he has seen nothing of their battalion news since the war. I made one of the 283rd aware of this article, and he has established contact with the person, and has gotten some info on that unit. Now we have a line on all of the 204th Group, and I will give a bit of news from those battalions as space warrants. We all served in the 3rd Army, most of us in the XX Corps, and supported many of the same units, but to my knowledge, our paths never crossed. Interesting.

I don't want you to worry about the next reunion, because I left Ocean City on the locate. I had nothing solid to write about Atlantic City so I just left Ocean City on the location. And I also turned my brain off. I had a picture of Harry Hudson which he sent with his letter, so I would possibly remember him as he was. I put the last page of the bulletin to bed without

leaving any room for the picture, so it will be in this issue, unless I forget it. As I have so often told you, "don't get old". Not much future in that.

Got the last issue of the newsletter off on the time I expected. The most recent bulletin will be put on our website, so you can always print it up from there, if you wish. John Wasilewski is a savior when our website is visited. I have had several other military folks tell me how good they think it is. John tells me that it has been considered a good reference site. Thanks for the excellent work.

Got a letter from Bud DeFeo. In it was some material from the Taj Mahal, including the manner which we are to use in making our room reservations. I will make up a reservation form which I think will be satisfactory, but will have to hear more from Bud before I do that. You will notice that the function is scheduled from Tues. thru Fri. This is because the rates are higher on the week-ends, and that is understandable. Bud tells me that the best rate he could get in Ocean City was at the \$50+ level. I do not know if we will be able to have our own small meeting room or not, but we will survive. I suspect that 20 rooms will be on the lean side, as I would expect more Helpmates than that.

Got a letter from George and Dorothy Ralcewich, and a kitty donation included. Dorothy has had knee surgery, and is in the middle of rehab with that. Her sister is having a great amount of medical problems, and lives in California, so the family ties are being strained some at this time. I hope things go well for you folks, but age seems to be adding more than years to our being. Many other problems seem to be creeping in.

The Donaldson's have gone to visit with

Howdy
JBS

Betty's brother who is seriously ill. I hope you find things less serious when you get there, but again, this will happen with us all at some time. Our best wishes to Betty for a good outcome. Will see you all in a couple of months.

I received a call on my answering machine from Margaret Stensberg. They had gotten the last newsletter, but it was only partly there, so she needed another, if any was available. Of course, I printed another one up, and it is on it's way. I get very few mangled bulletins, now that I double staple them, and try to fold them tightly. Hope you and Gerry can come to Atlantic City, Mugs. There will be a lot of folks who will miss you, if you don't make the reunion.

I received an E-mail from Bud DeFeo, and he thinks we will need more than 20 rooms for the reunion, if projections are true. Lots of folks are showing interest, and 20 may not be enough. The hotel will probably be tickled pink, but Bud will be able to work with the hotel folks, and straighten this wrinkle out. I think the choice of Atlantic City was a very good one. Lots of the Pennsylvania members should be able to make that one.

I received an E-mail from Herb and Ann Smith on the 8th. He is getting plans made to fight his medical problems, so is not doing much of anything concerning travel. He is in the process of trying to find a suitable place to move in the northwest near a daughter, but has not made any final decision concerning this matter. They are planning being with family this summer, and will surely make the reunion in September. They have not been with Harvey and family for a while, but surely will be at the seashore when his daughter is in the area.

Hang in there, Herb. Keep me posted, I am always available at the ends of your fingers.

I have had 2 of the bulletins returned as "not at this address". Edna Forcade's last one, and this recent one, have been sent back, so I will take her off the mailing list until I am able to get a good address.

And Georgette Simpson's bulletin has been returned for the second time, and I have done the same with her mailing. If any

of the group is in touch with either of these lost Helpmates, kindly tell them to furnish a good address, so that I can send them again.

There has been a wealth of nothing the past several weeks. Does that sometimes, so then I just make up stuff, and pad the newsletter. The internet has also stopped any newsworthy additions, so even that won't give me more to write. I have several things from Bud DeFeo which I will add onto this issue, and I want to try to give you some more about the reunion in this issue.

Bud has told me that he has increased his room request to 30 rooms. I think we should surely be able to get that many coming to such a posh place, so close to many of the people. If some of our group knows of any of the Helpmates who may need transportation, offer to bring them. I know that several of our bunch just do not feel able to make a longer drive, and that is understandable. Ask around.

Received a note from Don Haaning in the mail on the 15th. He is planning making the AC reunion, and will be glad to see Jim Carney after 56 years. He will be glad to see some of his former friends in Service, also.

Don sends a donation for Miss Kitty, which I will use to best purpose. Thanks for the letter, and for the donation. He also left his phone # which is:

(910)392-6865

I checked the website on the 16th, and there had been 311 hits as of that date, and that time. That is a lot of activity, and I can believe it when John Wasilewski has told me that some of the interested people thought it was a great spot. I believe it far superior to some of the military sites, and as I get better at finding the spots which are on the web it may get better. I have been in touch with several people lately who have wanted help in finding relatives who had been in WWII, and with John's help, I think we have done admirably on this. Many of the vets have been reluctant to talk about their spot in the world during those years, and it has left a great void, which the younger generation has tried to reconstruct. We will keep trying, and I am sure that it will be easier as more of the contacts ask for help.

I have gotten several inquiries from Shir

Dawson, because I had not put firm dates on the last issue of the newsletter, and her folks were needing same to plan vacation time. I think I have gotten this working, and I am going to try to fill in some of the voids with mail I have gotten from Bud DeFeo.

We will have some meeting space at least part of our reunion time. We will NOT be allowed the convenience of snacks, drinks, or the like, and the prices for these amenities are atrocious. As you may remember, I had this same problem in St. Louis, and it was just impossible to catch up after they charge \$4 for a bottle of beer, and \$14 for a pound of snacks. So we are going to make do with less, and keep it easy for Bud. In addition, Bud tells me that he believes the shuttle from the airport is \$8.00 per person, and he believes it will be just as wise to park in the Valet Area, as the prices are about the same, and your receipt will get you parking privileges at other hotels.

The hotel will have a free shuttle to the other properties which Trump owns, and this will run all day, into the evening. It will be up to the person using the service to get themselves on one of the returning buses, and not end up having to take a cab back home.

He has asked them to reserve between 25 and 30 rooms, and I believe that is about right. Please register early, and be SURE to tell them that you are with the Helpmate Reunion Group, so that you get the rate which Bud was able to get for us. The rate remains at \$35.00, plus taxes, and a \$2.00 charge for room usage of some kind. Parking may be a problem, and I will try to get some more help from Bud about this. There are lots of things to do there except gambling. They have pools, exercise rooms, restaurants, shops. Etc, so there will be plenty of things to do. And the visiting will be super. It is very pleasant, seeing old friends again, and reminiscing about what was or could have been.

And do not forget the Shows which will be put on in their showrooms. They will have Las Vegas type shows, I am sure, and there will be several to choose from each day.

Paul Martin sent a note with his new phone # in Palm Harbor. It is:

(727)786-7132

Be sure to put in on the roster sheets which all of the group should have. Paul has had his car keys taken away by his doctor, so his daughter is his chauffeur for the time. Thanks for the note, Paul. See you in May, probably.

Got a letter from the Herb Smith family with a recap of their past year. They have added a granddaughter, now 1 year old, in Allentown, a spot close enough to be visited often. They missed the reunion when a sister from the north popped down for a visit, and a family reunion resulted. The Smith family is renewing old family ties as they find more members of the group resulting from adoptions and the like. They are writing, and they try to get together for a reunion once a year.

They have curtailed their big travel some, but did get to see family in S. Carolina. They will be traveling in a new car, as they had a run-in with a deer, and the old car came in 2nd best. They spend some time with Harv and Ann when possible.

Some health problems have come up. Betty is having therapy for back and leg problems, and Herb has a torn rotator cuff injury which he has reinjured, and that may require surgery in the near future.

Thanks for the news, Herb. See you later.

I received a note from the granddaughter of Cliff Cosler, and she enclosed a memory card, which I will place on a later page. Thank you for the note, and I will continue to send Flora the bulletin, and happy to do so.

St. Patrick's Day has come and gone, and the green beer wasn't even a temptation. I am far from Irish, but the world seems to love being in Patrick's corner on this special day.

And Spring has sprung, but the grass
ain't riz,

And I know where them robins iz.

They are down south.

Went thru the entire vernal equinox and didn't miss a breath. But I hope we start to get some good weather soon.

I received a nice surprise from Harry Karis. He sent me a copy of a publication he gets which caters to the businesses which buy and sell military memorabilia (militaria). It was fun to browse through, and one of the articles concerned itself with our old wartime friends, the

5th Division, and their publication, "The Diamond Dust" which was printed for foxhole distribution during the war. Several pages of excerpts from the issues were printed, and they have been saved by the authors daughter on a CD which will possible be given to the 5th Div. Members. Interesting.

And Harry also included a kitty donation which will be used to fatten our sad coffers. I thank you for the publication, and for the donation.

I just checked our website and we have had 384 hits as of the 26th. Very popular, it seems. Keep hitting it, folks. It is quite informative.

I just heard from Bud DeFeo. Jean's mother died today at noon (27th). She would have been 94 in July. She developed pneumonia, and did not survive it. I have sent the best wishes of all of the group, and our deep sympathy to the families. I will E-Mail Bud's message to all the Help-mates.

In this respect, would Pat Maier have Deb send me an E-mail. I have somehow missed a letter of something in her locate, and it keeps coming back undeliverable. Al DeMonaco's son's locate has gotten changed, and I have gotten his noted back in the past. I think the others are basically OK. If just one letter gets changed somehow, back it comes.

I have just about worn out my welcome, folks, so I had better close this issue of the bulletin. I hope that many of you use the information on the Taj Mahal, and register early. I tried several days ago, and was told that the listings have not started, but Bud told me that he had already registered, so I don't know what to advise you. Heck, try. The most it will do is use up their 800 number nickel.

Stay well, stay alive, and don't get old.

Azever

JBS

In Loving Memory Of
Clifford G. Cosler
Born
October 29, 1921
Binghamton, New York

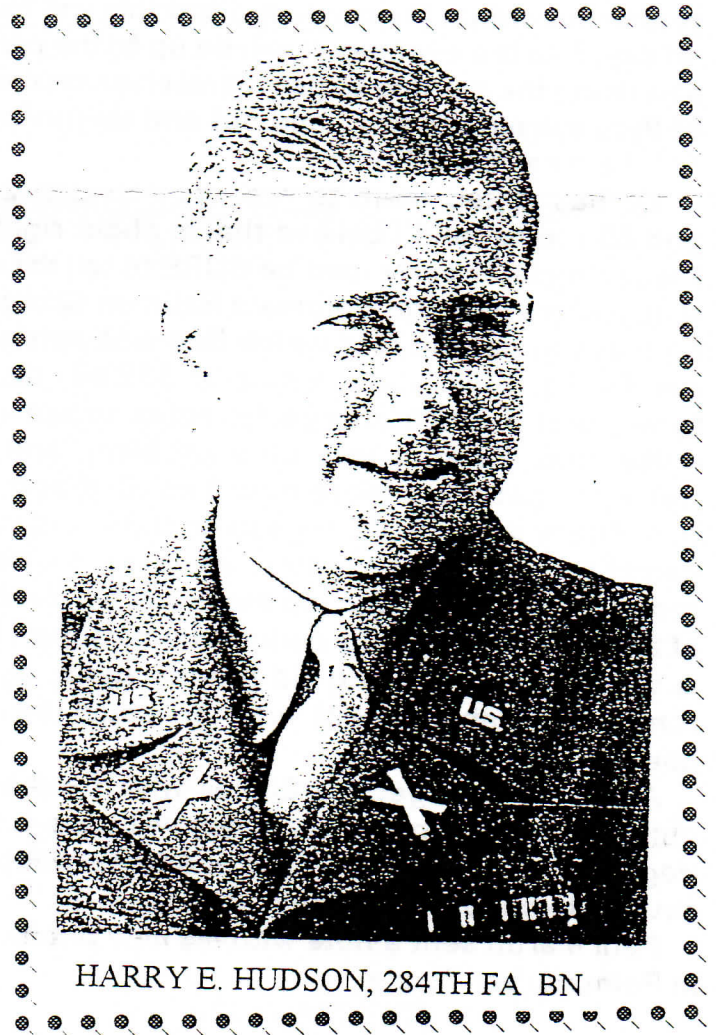
Entered Into Rest
February 16, 2001
Binghamton, New York

Funeral Service From
DeMunn Funeral Home
36 Conklin Avenue
Binghamton, New York
Sunday February 18, 2001
Three O'clock P.M.

Officiating
Reverend Rebecca Tanner

Final Resting Place
Vestal Hills Memorial Park
Vestal New York

CLIFF COSLER MEMORY CARD



HARRY E. HUDSON, 284TH FA BN



January 19, 2001

Mr. Anthony DeFeo
284th Field Artillery Reunion
144 Indigo Drive
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054

JOAN MOONEY
Director of Hotel Sales



1000 Boardwalk at Virginia Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-449-1000
www.trumptaj.com

Dear Mr. DeFeo

We were certainly pleased to hear from Barbara DiMuzio, Executive Director of Hotel Operations, that you will be holding your annual Reunion here at Trump Taj Mahal in September, 2001

We are currently holding the following dates for your group on a definite bases with 20 rooms on each night

Arrival: Tuesday, September 11, 2001
Departure: Friday, September 14, 2001

The room rate is \$35 per room, per night plus 12 percent tax and a \$2 room usage fee

Guests may contact our Reservations Department direct at 1-800-825-8888 to make reservations and must state they are with the 284th Field Artillery Reunion in order to receive the discounted room rate. Individuals are responsible for their own room, tax and incidentals

It is our understanding that you will hold your meetings in your own suite. Please contact me if you should have any additional requirements

We look forward to working with you and your associates

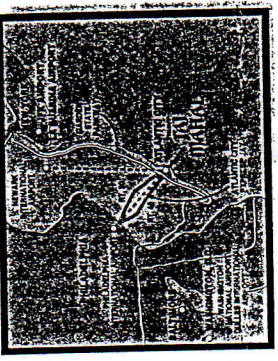
Best regards,

Joan Mooney
Director of Hotel Sales

JMM/wf

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All The Right Connections.
Trump Taj Mahal is just 15 minutes from Atlantic City's International Airport and an hour from the Philadelphia International Airport. Once in the city, we're easily accessible from the Atlantic City Train Station and Bus Terminal. The Taj Garat and surface parking lots accommodate over 7,000 vehicles.



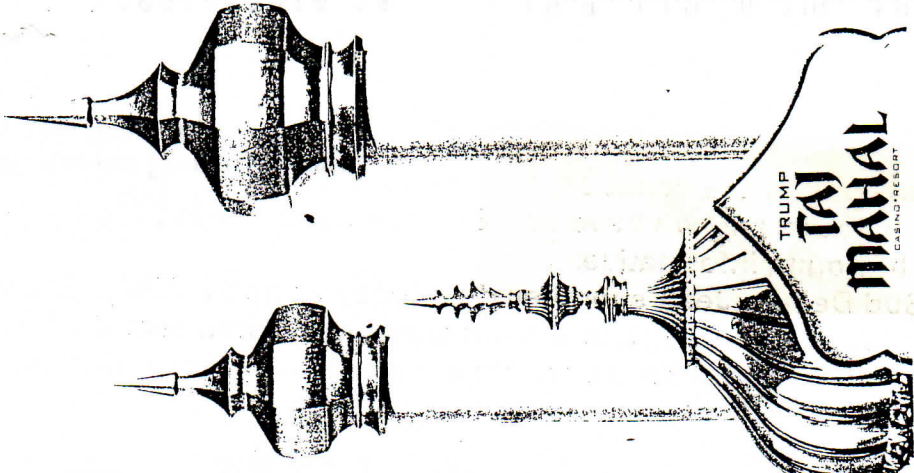
From New York:
Take New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 11 to Garden State Parkway. Take either exit 40 to White Horse Pike East (Route 30) or take exit 38 Atlantic City Expressway. Straight into Atlantic City. Follow signs to Virginia Avenue.

From Philadelphia:
Take Route 42 to the Atlantic City Expressway straight into Atlantic City. Follow signs to Virginia Avenue.

From Washington, DC and South:
Take I-95 to Black Horse Pike, Route 40. Follow Route 40 to Pacific Avenue, left on Pacific Avenue, follow signs to Virginia Avenue.

**1000 Boardwalk at Virginia Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401
609-449-1000
or for room reservations call 1-800-825-8786.
www.trumptaj.com**

*certain restrictions apply. All 1800s GAMBLER. Get with your head, not over it.



Late news. We have had 480 hits on our website to date. Super job, John W. And the copier hit a glitch. Am having to get it looked at, and I am in between printing. JBS



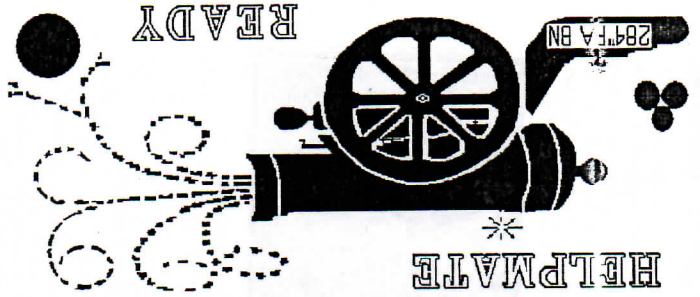
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Dated Material, Request Prompt Delivery
Address Correction Requested

JOHN A. WASILEWSKI
7534 W. POTTAWATOMI DR.
PALOS HEIGHTS IL 60463-2028

2001 REUNION
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ
SEPT. 11-14

“HELPMATE”
284TH FA BN WWII



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REMEMBER THE “HELPMATE” ANNUAL REUNION
SEPTEMBER 11—14, 2001 ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

September 2001						
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TAJ MAHAL
CASINO



ISSUE 01-2