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Greetings, all,

As you may have noticed on the date of the last bulletin, I had not expected to mail it out until mid-August, but wanted to get the word out on the reunion dates as early as possible. It seemed unusual for one of our meetings to begin on Monday, but I thought nothing more of it, then I found out that the early arrivers would get there on Monday, and the rest on the next day. I am hoping that none of the group were harmed by this glitch, but it was an honest misjudgment. Hopefully we will recover without too much damage.

On the evening of the 24th I got a phone call from Minnie DeMonaco with the dreadful news that Al had died earlier in July (8th), from an odd infection which produced a gangrenous result, and caused his death. He had been feeling badly, Minnie said, and just before he was put in the hospital, he asked that a daughter be called to see him. She was a nurse, and immediately took him to the hospital, where he was admitted. Tests were done, but no certain diagnosis was determined, and he became more ill, and died. Al was a great guy, and he flawlessly drove the medical jeep all through the war. He was very well liked, and had a great reputation as an aid man. He took our jeep on every one of our aid calls we had, and was driving when we had the mortar fire so heavily at Hamm.

I have already sent Minnie the regrets and condolences of our group, and I hope she and the family can weather the severe loss they have endured. Al will be missed. He and Minnie had planned being in New Orleans, as they have relatives in that area whom they would have liked to visit. I made a special invitation to Minnie to join us, as she can visit relatives, and still enjoy the reunion festivities. She is going to consider it, and I hope we see her there. She is now on our roster as Al's representative.

Our cool weather here in St. Louis is history. We had delightful 80+ temperature for the last 3 or 4 days, but it has gone back up to the mid 90's. The jet stream does odd things to our weather patterns.

I received a note from Irv Merrill with the obit notice which he received concerning Harry Hudson, one of our wartime officers. I am going to put this item in the newsletter at a later time. Harry was in the printing business, and I had a letter from him several years ago, but had no other contact to my knowledge. Thanks for the notice, Irv. I get few timely notifications from survivors, it seems.

And speaking of survivors, I received a call from Ann Forester, Gen. Sanders' daughter. She tells me that her mother died of age related infirmities, and that the General is doing fairly well at this time. He gets the usual things which we all recognize in ourselves, but lives with a little help arranged by Mrs. Forester. Ann believes that I must have heard from a grandson who lives in Minnesota, not in Florida, as I thought.

The General has poor hearing, possibly related to his artillery background, and does very poorly with telephone communications. He has help with his usual chores, along with the weekend visits which Ann makes to Lawton.

Ann enjoys the newsletter, and recalls many conversations with her dad about the goings on in the group. She would like to get our bulletin, which has been arranged here at the Message Center.

Thank you for the information, Ann. Join us in our activities if you are able. Several second generations members of Helpmate exist, and I would recommend that you keep up with our activities by logging onto our battalion's web-

site.

Our weather has been on the hot side in the past week, but it's going to cool down some at this time. We have need of some rain, as usual, and I understand we are supposed to be getting some soon.

One of my high school friends has been in touch with me recently. He has found a WWII website which allows one to honor a veteran, and for a small fee you can even put a picture in the record. John Wasilewski put his dad onto the site, and I believe his mother, too. You reach this spot by going to the web at :

WWW.WWII Memorial.com.

Then you can search the database, and arrange to put someone in the record whom you wish to memorialize. You are given a number, and using that, you can edit what you wish to place into the record/ This Hall of Remembrance is rather new, and seems to be slow, and is surely not very prompt in putting in data. Much earlier I had sent in a donation for this Memorial, and they put my data into the works, and put my name in as the sponsor. It seems worthwhile, and I am going to put the material I have received, so that those of you who are interested can place yourself, or a veteran friend in the database. If you wish a photo put in the area, a \$10.00 fee is charged.

As promised, our weather has turned cool. It is supposed to remain cool for the rest of this week, and I can put up with that. We did get a little rain, and I mean a little.

In one of Harv Smith's notes (Oregon) he gives me a new internet address which the Pat Maiers granddaughter uses. It is:

panwynia@yahoo.cin,

And she will pass on the message to Pat. Also Harv gives me a new locate which Herb Smith uses now:

bhrock@patmail.com

I may already have notified you of these, but at our ages, twice is far better than none.

Clair Schneider called me on Aug. 1, and we had a lovely chat. He really just wanted to hear my voice, because we didn't talk about a lot of world shaking events. He is in good health, and so is Carole. He got a different car, and likes it very much. His Cadillac was a super looking vehicle, but he needed a

change.

His garden is producing lots of food for the northern Illinois wildlife, but that is what he had expected. Family is OK, and all's well with Clair and his world. Thanks for the call. It cheered me up a lot.

A new address came for Marion Conway on the 3rd. He is moving from Colorado to Dallas, TX. His new address will be:

8502 Edgemere #220

Dallas, TX 75225

I received a nice note and donation for Miss Kitty from George Ford. As I told you, he had wintered just 10 miles or so from the condo in New Smyrna Beach, and I visited him once 2 years ago, but could not find him last year. I think he stays on the east coast now full time, He had a nice condo on the seashore, and I am sure that he misses being there.

George tells me that he intends going to the reunion, and it will be good to see him there. I am sure that he will enjoy the trip, and I hope that Mrs. Ford will come along.

Thanks for the note, George, and for the kitty fodder. It is close to being needed. Always a lot to buy just before the reunion.

Received a note from Lester Lenker with news that Alzene had died on Apr. 27 of this year. We are certainly saddened by this news, and Lester has our sincerest condolences, and our deepest sympathy on his loss. Alzene died quietly while sitting in a chair. He thought she had just dozed off, but that was not the case. A This is a superior way to go, but it sure does make it difficult for the survivors. Keep busy, Lester. Bad things happen if you don't.

Lester will not be able to make the reunion this year, but keeps hoping that he will be able to join us at a later time. He enjoys reading the bulletin, and he certainly will continue to get it.

Keep in touch with us, please.

And, true to his word, I received a donation for Miss Kitty from Lester on the 20th. Many thanks. It will be used.

Got up to 104 here on the 27th Aug. Hottest temperature to ever occur on that date. I just turn on the air conditioner, and let it buzz all day. Here in St. Louis, the humidity is forever quite high, and this makes for dangerous times for the aged and infirm. We have had a few heat

related deaths, and the constant TV warnings are numerous and serious. We are supposed to get a break tomorrow, but that usually makes it even worse. As earlier mentioned, the heat related deaths here are not too bad, but in other parts of the country they are not so lucky. I can remember, as a kid, how we had no air conditioners, and played out all day in the heat with no thought of trouble. Not now, though.

I just received an E-mail from John Wasilewski, and he is trying very hard to make it to the reunion. His wife is planning coming with him, and relatives will cover the home front for the family. He has gotten hold of one of the books I saw at an earlier reunion "XX CORPS", and is enjoying it a great deal. It will be good to see a little of our past history in print.

Great news, John. It will be good to see you again, and to see if your wife really exists.

I got a good look at Mars last night. I have had a decent telescope for years, and could not find it after the move. I would suspect that son John has it amongst his treasures. It is hard to imagine that it was never this close for 60,000 years, and that it will again be in this position in another 240 years. Astronomers are wonders.

Had a lazy Labor Day. Didn't stretch a single muscle. It was as hot as the hinges of Hades, as promised, so I hibernated. John and Linda came over for a while, and brought some food. We loafed, played cards, and did all sorts of non violent stuff. Had a small computer session, but nothing developed.

I got a call from Norb Obecny on the 4th. He was his usual happy self. Marie is having some trouble getting around, and is to get an electric wheel chair in the near future. Norb tells me that he hit the 85 year mark a while back, and this surprised me. He is always so active, and 85 should slow him down a bit.

He is considering making the reunion. I gave him my blessing, and surely hope he can make it. It would be good to see him. He has been a very faithful attendee, and I missed him last year.

Norb has broken the coffee mug which we had at the Rucker reunion. This has broken

his heart, and I told him that I may have a spare, and I must remember to look one up to take down to New Orleans. Will see.

Norb apparently is medically OK. He did not tell me of any problems at this time. Thanks for the call. Now Make It To The Big Easy.

I am going to place the Harry Hudson Obit notice just below this, and close for now. I want to get one more issue out before the reunion, but it will probably be a short one. I do want to encourage as many of you as possible to try to get to New Orleans.

I am also going to put in 2 sheets of instruction for those of you who wish to place an entry into the Hall of Remembrance area. Full list of instructions will be included.

Stay healthy, stay busy, and keep in touch.

As ever
JBS



