



HELPMATE BULLETIN

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

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Greetings, good people,

Getting some weird weather lately. Hot, then cool and wet. 2 heat records were broken last week for high temperature readings. Then a long spell of cold, rainy days. That's St. Louis, tho. If you don't like the weather, wait 30 minutes.

Am getting ready to take my latest car down to Florida. I am going to leave it at the condo, tho, and not trust anyone but myself for it's getting around.

Got the last issue out as expected, and the change to stamps did take more time. I think I am getting slower in my old age. I used to get the mailing, folding, sorting, and all that stuff done in 1 day, but now it takes me into the second day.

I had intended putting a writeup about one of our guys into that issue, but I did not want to leave it on a sheet by itself. The post office put one of the last ones on the scale before they took the whole box of them, and the clerk told me that it was the right postage. They are losing so much dough that they are thinking of charging all of us a nickel for every e-mail we send, I hear. Don't doubt it.

I have received several address changes from the last mailing. And one possibly bad bit of news.

I received a return from Chris Eliot, and the new address is:

Amelia Eliot
777 N. Brookfield Rd. Apt 47
Brookfield, Wi 53045-5640

I have written the above to see if Amelia is the survivor of our Chris Eliot. Will hope not, but I will try to add more when I get back from Florida.

I have some changes to report. All of these came back in record time. I think a stamp

helps.

Mrs. Eloise Grisham has moved. New address is: 521 Gulf St. # 10

Providence, Ky 42450-1174

And Mrs. Edna Forcade has a new address: 1822 State St.

Granite City, Il 62040-4619

Elmer Worden's issue came back as an unknown addressee. I have asked David Hawkins if he knows of some of the changes to "Chief", but have not heard back.

I may have further changes, but that is a bunch for one month.

Well, we have lost another of the Helpmates. The bulletin sent to Ray Bartel has been returned, DECEASED. No other note at all, so I will remove him from our roster.

And the bulletin to Fred Beltz was returned with a corrected address. His new address is:

Box # 562

Mt. Wolf, Pa 17347

His issue was redirected, and sent. Let us know how things are going, Fred.

I have just returned from a quick trip to the other state of my existence. I had some business on the west coast, and it took me 2 days to get that done, but I still had a chance to let Ray and Marge beat me up in Mhing. They did a good job of that, without getting up a sweat believe me. I did not even have a chance to call any of the guys, but I will be back.

I spent the better part of a week trying to figure out how to get me back and forth from an airport, so that I could leave my car at the condo. They do not rent cars one way from the little towns, so they hit you with a 79 buck daily charge for a rental. I could handle that, but I hated to put that burden on the kids, so I took the car back to brother Gene's house.

Another brother was in Las Vegas, so Gene and I went to the airport in Tampa to take me to my plane, so we got together for a short visit at that time. The flight back to St. Louis was uneventful, and I got here in time to watch my grandson get his Eagle Scout Ranking. That was a very impressive ceremony. Didn't know how much that rank meant in various areas. My grandson is 14, and he is in everything.

I got an E-mail from Dave Hawkins with news that the address which was returned is the one he currently has, so will send the Chief another issue next time, and then close down his name, too. That is a shame, too. He is always mentioned in reunion conversations.

We are really getting rain here. Just like we got in 1993 when the flooding hit us so badly. It is also some cooler, almost chilly, at times. I guess I want the warmer weather to descend upon us, so I can gripe about that.

No mail at all. I sent the bulletins to those of the group whose address was wrong, and tried to get the roster up to date, but I fear that I have goofed. I have about 4 or 5 copies of that instrument in existence, so I will have to find the right one, and scratch the rest. That is what happens when you work on more than 1 computer. Fragmentation and duplication happens.

I have not heard from Aurelia Eliot, and am relatively sure that our Chris Eliot has died. I will send another bulletin to the corrected address, but will then close his file. I am going to add his name to our deceased list. All it takes is a delete key to remove the mistake.

Rain we have had. But the rivers hereabout are cresting, and I still have dry feet. Many are not that lucky. As noted above, not as bad as 1993, but who needs any of the high water?

I received a nice letter from Dick and Rae-Marie Bozzo on the 20th. He and Rae were in an auto accident some time back, and Rae was significantly injured, but is doing well. He has remained somewhat sedentary since his retirement, and is thankful that his entire family is in the general neighborhood, and they enjoy the proximity greatly.

A son-in-law worked in the Trade Center complex, but was not injured in the 9/11 trag-

edy. He did lose his job, and has had trouble finding steady employment since. He was working in another of the buildings in the area when the problems occurred, but his company was badly damaged with the incident.

Dick sent a donation for Miss Kitty for which I thank him greatly.

Thanks for the letter, folks. Do it oftener.

I got another note from Bob Rosen with news that he was on his way to the Caribbean for his R. & R. He sends a check for Miss Kitty which is much appreciated. He is going to get on the ball trying to pull some of the "B" Btry guys to the reunion. He is nearly fully retired now, and gives the kids some expert help when needed. Keep in touch with me, Bob. Good to hear from you.

I have been in touch with David Hawkins who would like our next reunion to be in the New Orleans area. He is looking up some of the facts, and will give them to us at the reunion. He and Virginia are back in Wisconsin now, and he is going to try to find Chief Worden, if it can be done. Thanks for the help, David.

I would like to propose an idea to all the members out there. Many of you have splendid photos of your wartime experiences, and John Wasilewski is making a collection of some which are available. We have had requests from some foreign authors for our excellent CD with these pictures contained, and I believe that the collection should be copyrighted. A few of the people whose pictures are included have the same opinion, and if there are others out there, we could include their contributions. Our group, and their relatives would have complete use of the CD, but if anyone else were to use a photo, they would have to acknowledge the source, and give credit where due. It is not an expensive deal, and the kitty could support this plan, and John W. has offered to sponsor this endeavor, which may keep others from pirating the excellent educational resource. Think about it, and look over your scrapbooks, to see if you have any photos which John could scan, and save. Your work would be a credit to this photo collection, and may provide a permanent source for research material.

Speaking of pictures, Ray Crismond just had a son visiting, and the son helped him with

some of the pictures which he has in his many scrapbooks. He sent me one which was scanned, and it was great. Shows a young Ray with several buddies, apparently just after the war, and he looks like a normal Pennsylvania lad. I will try to remember to bring it to the reunion so that you can see some of Ray's past life in pictures. Ray is a photo nut, and I would guess that he could help with the project I just outlined earlier.

I have been in touch with David Hawkins who is in the north now, and he has been a big help in finding Elmer "Chief" Warden. The mail has been being returned, and I knew that David has seen Elmer in the past, and David found the Chief and his wife in one of the local casinos recently. He found both in good spirits and in apparently good health. Elmer's new locates are:

P.O. Box 69
Keshena, WI 54135
Phone #: (715)799-4524

Thanks, Dave. I will send Elmer the most recent bulletin, and hope it doesn't get mauled in the mail.

Now for some bad news. I heard from Bud DeFeo, and he does not think that he and Jean will make the upcoming reunion. He has been forced to make a conflicting engagement, and will find it hard to accomplish both dates. I am sorry to report this, because Bud has been a constant attendee, and has hosted several of our recent reunions. But that is life in the big city, and we will hope something comes up to let him make the function.

Thanks for the kitty fodder, Bud. Give Jean my best regards.

I have been in touch with Irv Merrill, and he is going to try to make the reunion, if at all possible. His family is having a reunion in the Chicago area, but that will be in June, and he is going to try to make a second trip to the midwest to take in the reunion. He has been in touch with Harry Hudson, an Indiana resident, and had hoped to meet with him while he was in Chicago, but Harry is having some respiratory problems, and would likely be unwise to make that trip. He had the feeling that Harry would like to go to the reunion, since it is so geographically close, but time alone will de-

termine that possibility.

All is going well with Irv and Ginny at this time. He is getting a new computer, so maybe he will get together with the message center a little more often. Thanks for the call, Irv. Hang in there.

I got some mail from Mel Donaldson regarding the reunion facilities. The motel is right on I-96, and should be easy to get to. I will put a chart showing the location of the Comfort Inn, so that you will have advanced planning data to work with. There will be eating facilities in the motel, and numerous other spots in easy driving distance from same. If you are going to Canada, please bring a birth certificate to be sure no problems develop. Always a picture ID, and a valid passport if available, should be in your possession. If you go to the gambling areas, bring cash.

I just got some details about the Comfort Inn in Livonia which I will pass on. Much of this has already been mentioned, but I wish to make sure that all the data is available for your inspection.

We will start registrations on the 10th. Several if us get there a day early to get things in hand for the crew. Most of the group begin to be come in the afternoon of this day. We will have a hospitality room during our entire stay, and we will have snacks and drinks available to the guests. Not much will be planned for the 1st day, but probably we will hit a local restaurant for dinner. The rates for the rooms have already been listed as \$59.00 plus tax.

An outstanding breakfast bar will be available each day including freshly brewed coffee, tea, fruit juices and milk. A variety of hot and cold cereals, bagels, muffins, baked goods, and seasonal fruits. The coffee and tea station is open 24 hours a day.

I will place the entire property profile sheet which Mel sent me so that the available perks are known to all of our attendees. Our accommodations will be standard, I believe, and that will leave the whirlpools to the more active guests.

Daughter Nancy got home safely from her trip to the condo. The unit next to ours was built by the same construction company just 4 or 5 years before ours was built, and has been

condemned because of structural problems. It has been unoccupied for the last 8 or 9 months, and the owners will have a 140+ thousand assessment to nearly rebuild the unit. We at the Southwind had a 9,000 hit about 3 years ago, but they have brought it back to nearly new status with that. The ocean air is deadly on all construction, and a condition called "spalling" gets to the steel construction parts, and causes a breakup of the patio, walls, etc. I hope the kids will not have any such luck, but it is surely possible.

One of my first surgical connections here in St. Louis has just died. He was a prince of a medical consultant, and did more good in our town than anyone else I have met. Received a huge writeup in the paper, and an obit notice about a foot long. It is a shame that we wait until death to recognize the value of the services we render. He will be missed. Cancer respects no one. Stay healthy folks. Remember, don't get old.

Attended the visitation and the funeral of my good friend. His flow of language left a bishop in shock, I would guess, but he did over 40,000 surgical procedures in his professional life, and saved many patients whose doctors were in jeopardy of losing them. My family was close to his, and when my 5 kids got together with 9 of his, look out world. His wife is working her way into Alzheimer's, but was placed on a new medication just a week ago, and was in super condition to understand the goings-on, and was able to recognize all my kids, for which I was grateful. She and Babe went on lots and lots of trips, including a float down the Grand Canyon—an 18 day ordeal, in my opinion.

Not a bit of news lately. I usually get an E-mail or the like, but the creek has run dry for this issue. I will try to find something appropriate for the opposite side of the sheet, and get this issue on it's way.

I received a call from George and Dorothy Ralcewich. Things go well in Riverview, and their place is being renovated, worked over, and otherwise causing George to empty out his deep pockets. I told him that my son John was thinking of retiring down in that area, and wanted son J. to see their spot. He will be glad to work with my family, whenever they can get together.

Promised them I would be down shortly, and

see them. Thanks for the call, folks.

Take care of yourselves, and plan on making the reunion. We need you.

As ever,

JBS

As an afterthought, I might offer a ride to the reunion to anyone along the route I-55 way to Detroit. I would try to transport them more carefully that the last trip with the Zimmers, and I think I could handle 3 people. You would be on your own in Livonia, but with any luck, it might be a way to get to our affair. Maybe some of the other attendees will also try to help some of those who would otherwise be unable to make it on their own.

I will not drive into Chicago, folks. You would have to find a way to the interstate, and back home when we return. JBS

Try to make the
trip to LIVONIA and
enjoy again the
company of long time
FRIENDS.

