



HELPMATE BULLETIN

Official Newsletter

of the

284th F. A. Bn.

. She has a rather important sales position in the construction business. We visited for a long time, and she received a call from her mother, my former employee, concerning the purchase of a home in Destin, Florida, where her brother is stationed in the Air Force. After my visit with these good folks, I make my way back to the motel, and hit the hay.

Several visits again with the Crismonds, and more losses than wins in our games, occupied the next few days. Ray organized a mini reunion in Zephyrhills, and we were joined by the Bill Hartleys, and the George Ralcewiches on Saturday, Jan 10. Bill Hartley had just been released from the Veteran's Hospital after a workup for some geriatric condition. Marion was expecting to join us without Bill, but he was released the evening before. Marion's health seems good at this time, but Bill will have to remain under close supervision at this time.

The Ralcewiches are suffering through the ins and outs of Dorothy's thyroid surgery, and are doing well at this time. Dorothy's sister, who required constant care, had died just a while earlier, and George was doing a lot of work administering the estate of the sister.

George continues hitting the golf ball several times a week, and his health remains good. He is required to see the doctors at the VA at times, but nothing serious is on the boards.

We made plans for another mini reunion at Brandon for later in the next week.

On Friday, Ray and I went to the Tahitian Village Motel, and arranged for our next reunion, to be held October 12, 13, 14 in Holiday Fl. We had arranged for room rates of \$44.50 plus tax, for the rooms, but rooms facing the pool area will be \$10.00 more. We will get a free breakfast meal, and then be able to use the dining area for our meeting room the rest of the day. Our Meeting-Meal will be held at Kally-K's, and we will probably have a sit-down affair from a limited menu, and a special price.

RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER JOHN B. SUMMERS,
5494 ABERDOUR LN. ST LOUIS, MO. 63129
INTERNET LOCA-

There are several things available to do at this area, and Marge will surely plan a trip on the gambling boat as one of them. As time goes on, I will add to the plans for our 2004 Florida reunion.

Not much else to report from the west coast, so went back to Auburndale to my brother's digs. I called Jeep Rafeld, and his eye condition is not improved, and made iffy plans for a trip to the China Jade, but just before I got out of town, I tried calling again, and received no answer. I will catch him next trip down, though. He does not drive, and I will try oftener to find a good time for him.

As planned, we had a mini in Brandon, and the Mel Donaldson's and the Ralcewiches and myself had lunch there. Mel had just gotten down a while before, and seemed to be in good health. He had a few reverses last year, and got some surgical attention, but seemed well as could be expected. George had called Warren and Irene Ellis, but they had some problems which prevented participation. George hesitated to call Janet Kleinman, because she did not like to drive long distances.

There are other members of Helpmate in the area, but we have long ago lost contact with others. If there are any snowbirds who hit this area of the state, let us know, and we will try to make these interesting meetings available for you.

I received a note from a neighbor of Joanne Koss notifying me that Joanne had died on December 24, after having suffered a severe stroke. That name has left our roster, now, and no survivors are listed for the family. We are getting to be fewer and fewer. Joanne wrote me several times a year, and I had gotten an Xmas greeting from her before her stroke. Alas!!!

Also in the mail on my return, I received the last bulletin and the Christmas Greeting which I had sent to Pat Maier. His new address is:

4757 Adobe St. SE
Salem, OR 97301-5563

I have re-sent these mailings to the new address.

Surprisingly enough, I received three late Xmas and Holiday greetings. Marion Hartley had fears that Bill was going to need more help, and I have discussed that earlier. Fred Beltz's card was damaged, but got here and Fred did not write much. I hope he is still doing the memorial work. We miss seeing him at the reunions. And Patricia Entile tells me that she had to have knee surgery in November. She is doing very well, and praises the modern surgeons for their advances. Thank you all for your greetings.

I hope I acknowledged all of those I received. No other mail had been returned, so I guess I am up to date on the latest addresses.

As I mentioned in last bulletin, my files may have become polluted, as one of the group told me that they were not on the roster. I have been trying to correct this, but it has been difficult. I have only found two which were lost, but there may be more.

I received an E-mail from the daughter of Jack Newell, inquiring about some facts on the service of her dad. She had believed that he had been transferred out of the outfit, and that he was wounded, but did not know any of the particulars. I sent her E-mail on to Hawkie, as he is the expert on "A" Btry, and suggested that she find his discharge papers, and see what few facts that might bring.

I had a listing of those transferred in Dec. '44 but Jack's name was not on the list. Also, I looked in the "Helpmate Ready", and could not find his name on the list of wounded. This I relayed to her. And in a following E-mail she had found that his MOS was Surgical Tech. I had thought that he was early on in our detachment but I had been sent to school, and was also a Surgical Tech, and he may have been relocated for this reason. That is as far as we are at this time, but I will try to get her address so that any of you who knew Jack could help her fill in some blanks. I will place her 2 E-mails at the

end of this issue, and also add more if more develops.

I have just received an E-mail from one of the staff of a nursing home in the Rockford area. She tells me that Alice Edwards is in the facility in which she works, and is not doing well. I answered the notice, and thanked her for any kindness she can give our widow, and for her to keep us advised of her condition.

The person who wrote (Cena Keen) gave me her new address. It is:

Alice Edwards
12017 Waidi Ave.
Machesney Park, IL 61115

I received a note from Zelma Rigney with news that she had misdirected her greeting to me, and she got it back in the mail a week or so later. She had used my old address, and that was not likely to find me. She is doing well in her new surroundings, and her only regret is not finding time to travel a bit more. You will catch up, Zelma, and then join us in Holiday for the 2004 reunion.

Zelma sent along a donation for Miss Kitty, and I thank her much for that.

Now for the E-mail from Jack Newell's daughter:

"Hope this finds you in good health. I'm hoping you can help me with some information. I believe my father, Jack Newell, left your unit to fight in Babble of the Bulge. Do you have any information or know how I can locate information on when he went to the Bulge, what unit he was with and so forth. Also, I know he was wounded, but don't know where. I think you had mentioned previously some members of Helpmate were sent to the Bulge. Do you know if there are any survivors of Helpmate that would have been with my father at this time? Thanks for your help. I'm in Omaha under 14 inches of snow with six more on the way. Sure wish I was in Florida right now."

I sent some recommendations, and thought she should register her dad with the National WWII Memorial. I also sent the above to Hawkie as Jack was in "A" Btry.

She sent me this follow-up E-mail.

"Thank you so much for all your help. His discharge papers say his occupation was Surgical Tech. I will definitely register him for the

memorial. I kept the copy of registration you sent with one of the newsletters. 24" of snow on the ground, and 6-8" more coming Wednesday. Florida sounds really good. I will keep in touch."

If anyone out there can help Diane out, let me know, and in the meantime I will try to get her address from my files.

I think I will close this issue with these notes, and maybe a boring newsletter will prompt the news letters that I really need to make this worth while. In spite of my early disappointment, several things happened for me to tell you about. Keep up the good work.

As ever,
JBS

