



HELPMATE BULLETIN

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

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Greetings all,

Had some trouble last issue, and it got out a day or so late. But it is running smoother this minute, and I will try again.

This will be a short newsletter. Absolutely no bad news, and very little good, was called to my attention, this period.

Received a call from Clair on April 1, and I suspected he was going to spring some joke on me, but that was not the case. He told me that Jerri Polson was in a convalescent facility as part of a recovery program from a broken leg problem. I was sorry to hear this, but he told me that he was going to try to get to cheer her up, and that he will give me any feedback which developed from the visit. Apparently she has been in the facility for some time, as the bone was injured some time back.

We tore up the world for some time, nothing of interest to anyone but ourselves.

All goes well with Clair and his family, and he tells me how nice the weather has been in his bailiwick. It is always a pleasure hearing from Clair.

I did get some info about a way to get Jerri. Her mail is picked up by a son, and her mail, and any phone messages are relayed to her by the son. The phone # of the Health Foods Store is (847)395-0461 until Jerri gets a secure phone #,

By the way, she has been trying to get her name recognition as Linnie, her real name.

Got a request from John Wasilewski to get the recent newsletter to him, so that he could put it in the website. I had forgotten to do that, and I usually get it to John right before the time that I mail the newsletters. It didn't happen, but I noticed that John got it on our website at this time. He has been such a help with our events and I want to make sure that he knows how

much I appreciate the help he donates.

Got another phone call from Clair on May 7. He had good news from one of his sons who is having some trouble with one of the government agencies, and he has nearly completed his work with them, satisfactorily. His son has also tried to resurrect a church organization which was not doing well, and he enjoys this activity a great deal. I will get more on both of these projects in his next phone message.

He had seen Linnie Polson (Jerri), and she looked and sounded great. I had gotten a call from her, apparently before her accident, and I felt the same. She sounded stronger, bright, and cheerful, and I am glad to hear that the accident had not depressed this great lady. I hope she gives me one of her calls when she gets back on both feet.

Clair called again on May 6, with some good news about his family. One of his sons is having a legal battle with the world, and he seems to have maybe won a round. But the war continues.

Clair saw Linnie Polson and thought she looks great, and is much more cheerful on this visit. I had told him that the last time she called me she sounded good, and had a rosy outlook. But I like to read that into people, in any event.

Clair called again while I was in Florida, so I didn't hear any more on that call.

I went to Florida for a couple of weeks in late May, I wanted to get a few days before the kids sold the condo. Property sales are on the slow side at this time, and not a person disturbed my short stays while there. The beach has risen about a foot or so, and it looks sort of permanent.

After about 5 days at the condo, I went to the home of my brother who lives in Auburndale. I was unable to reach Jeep Rafeld, got a busy signal on my call, and then took over the phone lines using the computer. I did some shopping there, and replaced some of the medicines which I left in the refrigerator when I bailed out from the east side. The druggist I worked with was from Festus, Mo., and lived just about 3 miles from my digs in St. L. Sure made things a lot easier to get replacements.

Was there just a few days, then went over to the west coast to devil the attorney who was on the work I needed done on that coast. Had no luck at all with him. He would call me when I got back to St. Louis. Still hasn't happened.

Spent a few hours with Ray and Marge Crismond, and got royally trounced in the card game we play. Marge is on Oxygen now, and seems to do better with that addition. She looks good, altho she seems thinner to me. Ray is in good shape, and gets around fine. I went to one of the bingo games which Ray calls at the Polish Club, and he sure didn't treat me very friendly with his calling. Had a nice Polish dinner, and got to visit with my west coast buddies.

George and Dorothy Ralcewich drove up to join me on the gambling boat early on Monday AM, but the coast guard was doing a surprise inspection of the boat, so we went to Tampa to visit the Seminole Hard Rock Casino. Held my own there, and ended up winning an umbrella on a gift machine they have set up there. We then went to Riverside for lunch, and I scooted back to Auburndale.

Didn't get to keep on the computer much at this time. Something went bad, and the machine died a terrible death.

My daughter and her husband came down to the condo, and late in their first week I went back over to visit. We ate ourselves crazy, and had a visit from one of Nancy's high school friend, and then I scooted back to Auburndale for the last few days. Met George and Dorothy at the Hard Rock again, and did very poorly this time. But I got to see my friends again.

Back to St. Louis early in June, and found a bit of mail from Marie Obecny. Since Norb died, she has made a move. Her new address is now:

1260 Franciscan Drive

Lemont, IL 60439

Phone # - (630)257-0079

She seems to be feeling OK, but misses Norb a lot.

I received a call from Mugs Stensberg to thank me for the notice in the last newsletter regarding Jerry. She does well, and is feeling OK. She asked me to tell all of her friends a big "HI".

Later on I got an E-mail from John Wasilewski. He referred me to an article in one of his contacts which brought up an Obit on a former soldier who allegedly had service in our battalion. I do not remember ever seeing his name, but I am going to put some of the material in this issue, to see if anyone in one of the batteries knew him.

In order to get this easily into the website, I am going to type up the important part of the obituary notice. The print will be small, but readable.

This is the opening of the obit, and I can find

Robert F. Frevele, 86, of Red Hook, NY died Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at the Baptist Nursing Home in Rhinebeck.

Bob and his family moved to Rhinebeck in 1965 from Port Washington, NY and opened a cabinet making business here. He operated the business until he retired in 1988.

A veteran of World War II, he served as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army with the 104th Field Artillery Bn in Hawaii, and the 284th Field Artillery Bn in the European Theater of Operations.

He was a member of Montgomery Post #428 American Legion in Rheinbeck, and of the Red Hook Post #7765, VFW in Red Hook.

no reference to this person in my records, or in the Helpmate Ready book.

After writing the above I had remembered some rosters which Ronnie had sent me a long time ago. I went through 2 of them—one in 1964, the other in 1975, and there he was

listed as a "B" battery member in the 1975 listing. He was not in the earlier one, but had been added before 1975, and he was indeed one of our members. He was listed as living in Rhinebeck, NY, so our mystery is solved, thanks to an older communication which Ron had sent out. In any event, thanks to John Wasilewski for digging out this member's data. John finds some of the oddest facts on the internet. He is appreciated.

Clair Schneider called me on the 21st, and dazzled me with descriptions of a property which his son is now interested. He called Shirl Dawson, and she told him it was quite near where she resides, and knows the area well. It has something to do with a battle (Wilderness?) in the Civil War, and is also near Washington DC.

We discussed religion, politics, the weather, and just about everything else, and I was warned to get the story right, or he would do me some mischief.

We had a very pleasant conversation with no real news to report, except that I should tell everyone out there to stay healthy, and take care of the planet.

And I have gone farther beyond my projected mailing date, so I will close this issue of the newsletter, and hope you all will send me some news for the next one. Do take care of yourselves, and have a good summer, and keep active.

As ever,

JBS

P.S. Of course, another glitch. My printer has given up and quit printing. This will be a day or so later as I get more ink. It seems to be just one thing after another. Golden Years, PHOOIE!!!!!!!

jbs

