



Veterans of the Vietnam War
P.O. Box 2113, Middletown, Connecticut 06457-2113



“PEOPLE WHO CARE”

Volume 23, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Since only three people showed up for the February meeting because of a few snow flakes, I can use the same heading to start this newsletter off only changing the month and date.

\$150.00 DRAWING NIGHT

On **Tuesday, March 3, 2009**, at our monthly meeting, we will be drawing the name of someone who could go home with \$150.00, and we won't even tell your better half. All you have to do is come to the meeting and have your dues up-to-date to be everyone's best buddy. That's right, have everyone follow you around asking you to lend them some money.

If you would like, you could take the lump sum of \$36.14 instead of \$1.00 for the next 150 years or take the whole thing and **RUN...**

To make a night of this milestone drawing, we will also be having **PIZZA** and refreshments. Hats and noise makers are optional.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive, off Rt. 66.)

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Veterans of the Vietnam War meeting. 7:00 p.m. @ Legion Hall.

DUES

17 regular members have not paid their dues yet.

Out of the 17 members who still owe their dues, 2 members (Barry Moyer and Antonio Rosa) still need to pay for last year.

Please send in your dues payments **ASAP**. We would like to keep you as active members in good standing.

Dues are payable at the beginning of the year. **It is still \$12.00 per year or \$100.00 for life membership.**

It also makes you eligible for the monthly drawing. You must be a current paid up

member to be entered in our monthly drawings.

If your dues are not received, your name will not be in the drawing.

Make Checks out to:
V V W MIDDLETOWN

Mail your Checks to:
**VVW MIDDLETOWN
P.O. BOX 2113
MIDDLETOWN, CT.
06457-2113**

I understand that the economy isn't that great, but \$12.00 is not a lot to ask for.....



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"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

Volume 23, Issue 2
Page 2

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MEMBERS ILL OR DISTRESSED

LOU WARZECHA had back surgery the beginning of December and if anyone knows how he is doing, please let us know.

Everyone in the Chapter wishes him a quick and speedy recovery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

It is time to start thinking about our **13th Annual Thomas W. Fritsch Golf Tournament**. This year the tournament will be on **June 4, 2009**.

We will be forming the Golf Committee and will be looking for any and all volunteers to help out again this year. If you are interested in assisting, please come to the March meeting and let us know.

Last year we started getting things ready this time of the year and it proved to be very beneficial to all those involved.

We really would like to see more individuals involved with the golf meetings. We send out information to approximately 150 golfers and sponsors and that means there are envelopes to be stuffed and address labels to be affixed. It may not sound like much, but with a little more help it can be done quicker.

As the time gets near, we will be looking for Tee Sponsors, so start thinking about who you can approach to help support us.

We also need volunteers at the golf course to help set up the morning of the tournament and assist at the end picking up signs and helping with distributing prizes to the players and raffle winners.



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"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

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NEWSLETTER

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Page 3

INTERESTING STORY ABOUT WW II

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on- the-lam could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush. Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort. By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross, to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located (Red Cross packages were delivered to prisoners in accordance with that same regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

- 1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass**
- 2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together**
- 3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!**

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one

(Continued next page)



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"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

Volume 23, Issue 2
Page 4

NEWSLETTER

March 2009

(Continued from page 3)

cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square. Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't de-classified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

Anyway, it's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card.

**MARCH 3RD 7:00 p.m. MEETING
PIZZA NIGHT**

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MAIL TO:
