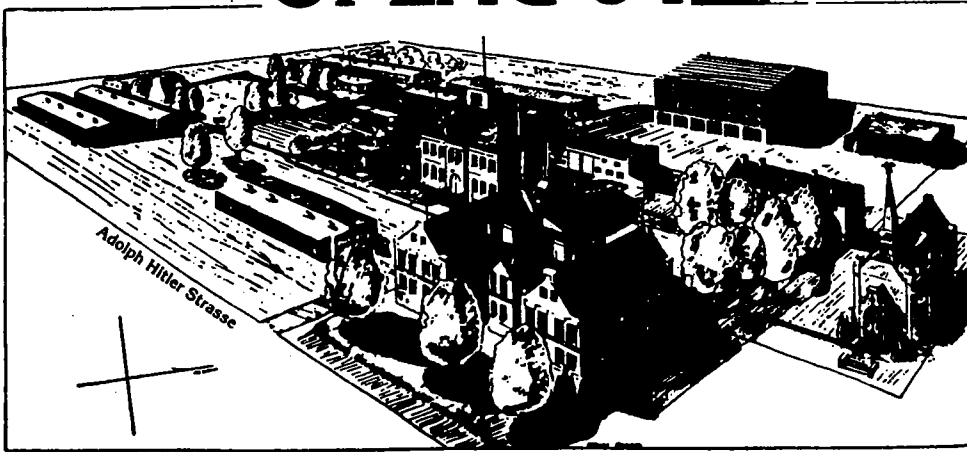


OFLAG 64



Prisoner's drawing of Oflag 64, reproduced from The Item of January 1, 1945

Drawing does not show the three, high, barbed wire fences surrounding the 900 feet by 1200 feet area of the P.O.W. Camp; nor are the eleven guard towers shown.

BY JAMES BICKERS

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM VOL. XX11 #1

April 1985 Page 1

Ladwyne, Pa. Boy did I goof! Well, anyway the Chairman's name and address was left off of the Master List that I included in last issue of Oflag Item that listed those attending the Reunion. Sorry about that Alan, but I didn't check it. For those that may want to drop Alan and Lilo a note here it is.

Alan Dunbar
4675 Green Canyon Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Philadelphia, PA What a pleasant surprise! Tom Mitchell formerly of Princeton was in the Phila area for several weeks and called me, What a nice lunch that almost went the entire afternoon, sober too! He is now living in Holland, PA which is NW of Phila. Thanks for the contribution too Tom. See you soon again.

Met, CA Had a very informative note from Flo Siercks giving me the status of Herb. They have just moved and their new address is noted on the list enclosed. Thank you Flo for the nice note and I hope Herb is somewhat improved by now. We missed you both in Las Vegas and hope you are looking forward to joining us in Orlando, FL. Thanks also for the contribution to the Postage Fund. Very thoughtful.

Sacramento, CA George Durgin expressed his regrets and not been able to join us in Las Vegas. A sudden illness in the family forced the cancellation, Sorry you can't make the trip to Roland you would really enjoy it. Make sure to contact me when ever you come East.

utherford, N.J. Nice little note from "Doc" Salerno along with a nice check. Very nice of you and sincerely hope you have enjoyed the communications you have received. Now lets see you! Plan now for Orlando in 1986.

Chappel Hill, NC Received your "big" note as well as your check for the Postage Fund. Thanks much, "Newt" Cole. The Fund can always use it. Sure hope you mark down the Orlando date now so that you can get there. You'll have a "ball" October 11, 12, 13, 1986.

San Antonio, TX. Nice letter from "Bud" Williamson even though I neglected him for a long time. Named the following as being capture with him in the 2nd Bn. of the 143rd Inf. Dick Torrence (deceased in prison camp), Clarence Ferguson, Harold Craft, Leonard Vaden, Brently B. Hart (deceased), John Hannon, Arthur D. Morrow, Lt. Col "Hal" Jones. "Bud" notes that this group was the first to be in the barracks outside of the White House. Boy, Bud really physically put out a lot of energy. He played chess. Great! Your assesment of Von Sickle is correct. It happened many years ago. His first name was Richard or "Dick". I will have to go through my records. Will advise. Again your info on Lt. Col Doyle Yardley is correct and as you have surmised. Thanks for Harold Craft's address. He has been on our list for many years. I have gotten to know ^{him} very well except that he is always ducking our reunions lately. Thanks Bud for your fine letter. Let's hope all our Kriegies signed up for the Forget-Me-Not Association.

Altamont, KS Norm Alloway writes that he is doing better after a bout with a bad leg. Norm, welcome to the group. Your name is now on our list. Better not hope to make the reunion too long! Just get there in 1986 in Orlando, FL. will look forward to meeting you. I know Jim C. will be glad to know your name is now on our list.

(OVER)

Enterprise, AL This town must have something in the air that makes people write. We now have two authors living there. Clayton Metcalf who has written many books and Jerry Sage whose book was just released in January. I also received a new book from Clayton which tells the story of his army career including his P.O.W. tour of duty. Write to him if you want a copy or let me know and I'll try to get one at a discount from "Clay." Ok Clay! The book by Jerry Sage is of course a more thrilling book to read because of his O.S.S. experiences and the fact that he never tells you ahead of time when he is going to escape again. If you haven't picked it up at your local book store, just send me \$ 5.00 and I'll mail one back to you. I have about 30 copies and would be only to glad to mail one out to you. You'll enjoy it.

While I'm on books, I also have a few copies of "RAID" left if you haven't read it. Send \$ 10.00 for it.

I hope from the above that you authors don't get a feud. I'm just trying to make sure you fellows out there keep up on the latest writings about our experiences.

One more book item. The experiences of Major General Delmar T. Spivey USAF (deceased) have also been published and is the story of Stalag Luft III at Sagan. This is available from Mrs. Spivey who lives in Florida. Anyone wanting a copy of this book send your \$ 5.00 to

Mrs D. T. Spivey, Unit 103
13300 Indian Rock Rd
Large, FL 33544

I expect to be flooded with all kinds of orders. I know you'll have good reading.

Baltimore, MD Nice to hear from Dr. Gottfried Dietz of Johns Hopkins University. Many of you probably do not realize that Dr. Dietz was one of our mail censors in Oflag 64. Befriended us in many ways thru Colonel Drake and Tony Lumpkins. Tony later assisted in getting Dr. Dietz to U.S.A. where he attended M.I.T. and Princeton University and is a professor in Political Science Dept of Johns Hopkins University. One of his other friends at the Oflag was Roy Ihrie our Librarian of great renown. The only reason Gottfried that your letter to Roy was not delivered that I can ascertain is that someone didn't take time to properly interpret your written address. It was the correct address and forwarded to Roy. Nice to hear from you. Dr. Dietz has also written more than six books and many magazine articles.

New York City, N.Y. Always glad to hear from Richard Rossbach. When I received a book from the "Oberst" I was really surprised. The title, "Wadings and Wanderings" and I'm sure is a book of philosophical tales of fishing and travels of Dick's first love, fishing. Dick has gone many places to follow his hobby and still does as far as I know, despite his physical limitations. It is my next book for reading. Thanks Dick for thinking of me. Anyone desirous of a copy of this book, I suggest you write direct to,
Richard M. Rossbach
Ingalls & Snyder
61 Broadway
New York, NY 10006

Janesville, WI Just learned that Jack Carp died August 6, 1980 as a result of a car accident in June 1980. His widow is living in Janesville WI. 53545. Len Vaden sent me this info.

West Hempstead, N.Y. Just to let you know that Sol Levy our great entertainer over the years our reunion would appreciate and humor you, send his way as he continues to hold on to life. His many times of conversation "skits" with Dick Rossbach are gems of our memories of the many reunions over the years. Keep on going Sol. We all wish you well.

Fort George G. Meade, MD It took place at the Post Chapel on the 25th November 1984. Our own General John Knight Waters (USA Retired) received the Chapel of Four Chaplains Highest award, The Medallion of the Chapel of Four Chaplains. A few of us from the area were there to witness this momentous occasion. Joseph Barrett, Louis Gerster, Raymond Marnien, Al. Moss and yours truly. Logistics were fabled up but we wound up being warmly greeted by the parishioners over coffee and doughnuts. Ann Walters, Rosemary Barrett, Mary Slack along with John Waters, Jr. and family also were among those present. The entire sermon, dealt with the creation and work of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, by James Eric Pierce who is the senior Chaplain at the Chapel. Those present were extremely well pleased to see the General receive this outstanding award. Anyone desiring more information about this presentation just let me know and I'll try to comply with your request. See enclosed brochure.

Columbus, Ohio Now Stan Statson has a fellow Kriegie in that famous town, Joseph Tuck Brown. Nice to have you as a "found" member of our group. Hope you and Stan can get together and hieft a few over a couple of long tales.

Hemet, CA Buford Johnston was added to our list at Las Vegas and hope you can get a chance to see Herb Siercks in your same town. Welcome! hope to see both in Orlando, FL in 1986.

Highland Park, IL Received the announcement of the Stalag Luft III 40th Anniversary Reunion to be held in Denver Colorado, May 2-4 at the Marriott Southeast. Anyone wishing more info drop me a line or write

Robert L. Wineberg
1695 2nd Street
Highland Park Par, IL. 60035

Lincoln, NE John Stewart dropped me a short note thanking all for a great Reunion in Las Vegas. He also requested a copy of Haynes account of "March" out of Schublin. Thanks, John

Charlotte, N.C. From the largest populated City North Carolina comes a request and a nice contribution for the book "RAID" and Haynes count both of which are being shipped to Armond Hessler 3/25/85. We missed you at Vegas Armond. Let's get a good long look at you at Orlando, FL. It's not far away and you should have no excuses. The dates are October 11, 12, 13, 1986. Love to see you. Sorry I was so long getting this to you but I have bogged with my Accountant for Uncle Sam.

Vienna, VA Way back in October Col. George Skalkion sent me the names and addresses of the former Oflag 64'ers that I am just now getting around to adding their names to the list. Thanks much George for the names as well as your kind words about the reunion. Nice of you to send a note to Alan. He did the work. Your contribution to the Saturday dinner was also appreciated. Welcome to: Earl Bedient, of Wichita, Kansas, Kenneth Vyn, Lt. David, Arizona, Paul Johnston, Lynnwood, WA. Hope our fellows will join us in Orlando, FL. for our Reunion in 1986. Complete addresses elsewhere.

Alexandria, VA. General Waters referred, Col AT Haskot to me and your name is at last added to the list. Welcome! Our next event will be our Reunion in Orlando, FL. in 1986. Join us there and keep in touch.

Knoxville, TN A very nice note from Kathy Jones wife of Bill Jones, thanking those who worked on the Reunion in October for such a successful one. We thank you indeed Kathy for the kind words. These are the things that make our day. Alan and his group are indeed appreciative. Thanks, also for the nice contribution to the Postage Fund. Look forward to seeing you in Orlando.

Greenville, S.C. Well, maybe this didn't happen in our theatre of war but I felt that we have a bond anyway. The enclosed copy of a clipping sent to me by B.G. "Tank" Hardaway was something that would interest all of us and a damn nice thing for the General to be doing. He didn't ask me to do this so anything any of you do would be more than appreciated by he and his group. I know I try personally to give some support to anything that involves P.O.W.'s. General pls. make sure you reserve the dates for Orlando in 1986. We all would enjoy talking with you. Thanks also for the contribution to the Postage Fund.

Houston, TX Inasmuch as I copied the previous columns sent to me by Johnnie Jones, of David Westheimer and also the fact that he was at the Reunion it seems, ^{EVEN} more than appropriate to include a copy to each of you on his write up of his meeting some of his old friends in Las Vegas. Honeybear! And he was in our Camp too. Well live and learn! Glad I met you, Art. Anyway Johnnie Jones was enthusiastically appreciative of the great time he had at the Reunion and I just as appreciative of his contribution he sent to the Postage Fund.

Thanks John. See you in Orlando.

GLADWYNE, PA. A classmate, Robert E. Baker from college loaned me a book with the title of " The Raid" by Benjamin F. Schemmer, Harper & Raw, Publishers which was published in 1976. I was not familiar with it but boy, if the details involved in that book had been worked out by Patton's force, I'm sure we would all have been released at Hammillberg. The Raid refers to a planned attempt to release all the prisoners in Son Tay Prison, 20 Miles west of Hanoi in the Vietnam War. This is a fantastic report. Thanks for the loan of the book, Bob.

Las Vegas, NV. The Postage Fund just got a boost from Alan Dunbar. The surplus from Reunion after all expenses have been paid was a little over \$ 100.00. This was a real pleasure to receive in view of the unexpected attendance which threw the logistics in certain areas in a tailspin. Thanks again Alan Dunbar for a great show and glad to hear your already planning to be in Orlando. Wouldn't miss it for the world. Will look forward to seeing then.

Stockholm, Sweden Have received several letters from Henry Soderberg. He is going all out to be prepared for us in the late Spring when we arrive in SWEDEN. We are going even though the group is smaller than anticipated we are all looking forward to having a great time. Maybe we can give you all a rundown of our trip thru the item. See you soon Henry! Charles Snider was awarded a YMCA medal in 1945-1946 but never received it. Henry was able to supply him one from his own collection. Charles how 'bout telling us the story behind this. I'll be glad to publish it in the next issue. It must be interesting! Henry wrote also that the Las Vegas Reunion was one of the best of the many he has attended in the last 25 years. Incidentally in his past Reunion travels, Henry lost his luggage to the vagaries of American airline travel which was his first loss ever in the many millions of miles he has travelled by airline.

Daytona Beach, FL Good reports already from Dick Meskill our Chairman of 1986 Orlando Reunion. Things are proceeding so rapidly that we may know shortly at which hotel we will be staying in. Great! Looks like Dick is doing his part, now you fellows out there do your part by MARKING YOUR CALENDAR NOW by reserving the dates and make sure you get your Airline ticket in time so as not to be left home. DATES: OCTOBER 10, 11, 12, 1986 See you all then if not sooner. Thanks Dick.

Gig Harbor, WA Jimmie Kanaya who we had hoped would join us on the trip to Poland had to bow out when we had to up the price when so few signed up. Jimmie wrote that he got back to Europe to make the 40th Anniversary of the liberation in France of BRUGERES. This was sponsored by his outfit the 442 Regimental Combat team, about 300 got to the reunions which I have no doubt was a very memorable

(over)

occasion. Jimmie also wrote that he was able to locate the spot where he was captured in the Vosges mountains and where he had plan to escape after captive but was unable to do so because of several wounds were with him. Very commendable Jim. I doubt I could find the spot in the vicinity of Thela where I was captured.

Orlando, FL Just made arrangement to take the balance of the pictorial memo books from the Reunions Co. that made them for us. There will be approximately 25. I will be able to sell them to anyone who sends me \$10.00, postage included on a 1st come 1st served basis. Get your orders in to me right away if you want a copy. General Waters says its a great book. He was elated with his.

Ware, MA Phil Mc Intyre sent to me a photo copy of the OFLAG Theatre Production "Full Swing". It was produced October 30 thru November 4, 1944 at the little theatre Oflag 64. Altburgund Germany. Druck Willi Krick's Altburgund This was some production (which I don't recall the details) with more than 50 people listed in the program as having some part in its production. Phil made a note on the program that it was staged before our rations were cut. Thanks Phil, I'm sure this will rouse some memories.

Gladwyne, PA I have three questions that you fellows out there might be able to help me with. They each pertain to that date (at least the year) of death of the following. Col Paul R. Godde Lt. Col Doyle Yardley Capt. Richard Van Syckle. Just drop a postcard with the info, Thanks. ED.

Balboa, CA Welcome back on our list and it was nice to see you in Las Vegas. I sincerely hope you enjoyed yourself. We are looking forward to seeing you again in Orlando in 1986. Bill Swanson

It's me again. Someone gave me the name of James M. Gillespie of Willimantic, CT 06226 at Las Vegas. I do not have the name on my list. I tried the telephone company and they do not have it either. Help! whoever gave me the name let me know and maybe you know of some other source or I don't have the right town. Postcard, please?

Rutherford, NJ Great to hear from you "Doc". Thanks for the note on Doctor Graf. He was a great guy and we were lucky enough to publish his obituary in our newsletter, shortly after his death. Sorry you missed it. Glad to hear you plan to find time to join us as we need doctor to join us in our reunions with both Graf and Doc Burgeson gone. Look forward to seeing you again in Orlando 1986 if not before.

Gladwyne, PA Some one of you out there to the time to send me a copy of the official Military Intelligence Service Report by the Department 15 July 1944, on Oflag 64. I think circulated this some time ago but perhaps some of the newer ones on the list are not familiar with it. Anyone desiring a copy of this- It is 8 pages one side- I'll send a copy. Just send a #11 envelope stamped .37c and self addressed and I'll be glad to forward a copy. It is a good resumé of the life of the Camp.

Las Vegas, NV. Thanks Jim Cunningham for your Christmas card and the included postage fund contribution, Although belated I sure hope you and Crystal had a fine Holiday. Looking forward to seeing you in Orlando.

Colwyn, PA This is a repeat of the previous ~~bu~~urb from Jim Cunningham above to the East Coasts. Harry Albertson who was a Battle of the Bulge member of our Camp. Thanks also for the nice Christmas card and the contribution. Again hope you had a nice Holiday. Try to make Orlando. You'll love it.

Tampa, FL Big long note (Ha!) from Paul La Chance. He didn't get to Miami or Vegas but sure looking forward to seeing you in Orlando. Your right! you should be able to make it and I know you'll be around. Perhaps you could even give Dick Meskill a hand with the details. He lives in Daytona Beach. Set these dates a now! October 10, 11, 12 1986.

Clemson, S.C. Actually, he took time out to write while vacationing in Sea Island, GA. over Christmas with his lovely wife Ellen. Wright Bryan's reaction, Charlie Eberle's reaction of the Vegas Reunion; Obviously it was a 'lalapalooza' your correct! It really was and we missed you. Thanks for the Postage Fund contribution and the Christmas Greetings. Mary & I appreciate the greetings all of you great people send us at the Holiday time, I send them to each of you but I try to cover that in a Newsletter. Sure hope to see you Ellen in Orlando, Wright.

Anna Marie, FL. Col. "Max" Thanks much for your contribution. The Postage Fund has been in fine shape since the Reunion but of course the costs keep going up too, so we are always glad to receive all additions to the fund. Col "Max" Gooler we sure hope we can get you up to Orlando in 86.

Athens, GA W G A V reporting with a nice contribution. Who else but "Boomer" Holder. Boy! if you don't get to Orlando we're going to get Oberst Schneider after you. Its so close home. See you in '86 for sure.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Herb Sierks
1042 Alder Ave
Hemet, CA 92344

General J. D. Alger
10 Micking & Co
25 Ecker St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ben & Mildred Johnson
6519 Newberry Rd #704
Gainesville, FL 32605

NEED NEW ADDRESSES

See attaches list

Mr. Tom Mc Hale
13612 Midway, Ste 520
Dallas, TX 75240

Joseph R. Green
406 S. Kapoo
Springfield, MI 65804

Garvin Fitton
Box 249
Harrison, AK

James M. Gillespie
Hillmantic, CT 06226

B. G. John W. Dobson
1 Brains Point
Box 1066
Hilton Head, S.C. 29928

Lt. Robert J. Miller
4051 S. Normandie
Los Angeles, CA

Lt. Edward Baker
549 Hellman St
Phila, PA

Lt. Arthur Heindl
703 N. Oakley Av
Chicago, IL

Capt. Leo V. Thieme

Lt. Harvey A. Todd

"Pop" Phill Foster, Penn State

Thomas O. Rush

"Red" Wiegand

Tom Mc Hale
13612 Midway Ste 520
Dallas, TX 75240

NEW ADDITIONS

Norman L. Alloway
RR1
Altamont, KS 67330

Buford Johnston
47300 "C" St Apt B
Hemet, CA 92344

Joseph Tuck Brown
3400 Watergate Court
Columbus, OH 43221

Col. Nathaniel Hoskot
404 Cambridge Rd
Alexandria, VA 22310

William R. Swanson
2101 Seville Ave
Balboa, CA 92661

Carl Bedient
721 Stackman #B
Wichita, KS 67203

Kenneth Vyn
PO Box 410, Rose St.
St. David, AZ 85630

Paul Johnson
3303 148th SW, Lot 10
Lynwood, WA 98036

Page 5, April, 1985
Gladwyne, PA Gee! as I look back over this newsletter it looks like a book review column. I didn't mean it to be but hope you'll understand that they all come in at one time. I didn't plan it that way. Incidentally I still have cassette tapes of the recordings made at Oflag 64 in July 1944 by Henry Soderberg. Send me a check for \$10.00 and I'll ship one to you. This is the end until next time.

Your editor
John Slack

P.S. Len Voden have you come up with any ideas about a before or after Reunion, Cruise, Tour, trip to the Moon or any where else in '86

Pinehurst, N.C. Doc Garris wrote me a nice note and enclosed an article about Mule's Meat. see enclosed copy. Did we ever eat "Mules" Meat at '64? I'm sure I wouldn't have known it if, we had, I tried to contact Jim Shumacher the author of the article but was not successful. This question could become a big survey as Ann Landers sex survey! (I hope not). I don't think Jim Shumaker was in Oflag '64. Anybody know. Thanks also Herb for your nice contribution.

Raleigh, N.C. Woody Warrick was pleased to see Joe Seringer's name on the list at Las Vegas. Woody, its nice to know that you worked at North Carolina State Univ. Joe Seringer in recent years has worked at Wooster College in Wooster Ohio, teaching Accounting or TAX Law. He lives in Wooster, Ohio. Say hello to Ed Batte for me the next time you see him. Thanks for the help on the Postage Fund.

West Seneca, N.Y. Well, I'm sorry I didn't re-read your letter before I went out to dinner on April 6, 1985. Why, because John Dervay, I had the pleasure of spending a long dinner hour with Alan Dunbar. I'm going to drop a ^{book} to him on the following Monday. He is in Phila due to the illness of his brother and hopes to return to Vegas shortly, A very pleasant evening in any event. Thanks also John for your nice contribution. I sure hope the cost of postage doesn't move up too fast. Sure look forward to seeing you again in Orlando.
Glad you had a great time at Vegas.

Mankata, MN Gee! Royal Lee when I write the name of your town I think I'm sending off an order to Carlson Craft. They are one of suppliers I use around the country and they do a good job for me. Sorry, we didn't get the info out on the trip sooner so you could have gone with us. Next Time! Thanks also for the contribution to the Postage Fund. About 20 of us are going to make the trip. See you in Orlando.

Clemson, S.C. What a great way to spend a vacation. Two Kriegies getting to-gether, Wright & Ellen Bryan and Tracy and Frank Diggs at Frank's place in Montserrat, W.I. after telling me about this nice vacation he had, the rest of his note was telling me of the death of Larry Phelan on March 22, 1985. Many of us knew Larry very well but had lost track of his address in Portugal, so he was not on our list. Larry was very helpful in many ways both in Camp and afterward. Our sympathies are with his wife Ash.

Her address is:
Mrs. Larry Phelan
Cerro Grande
Albufeira, Algarve
Portugal, Europe

(OVER)