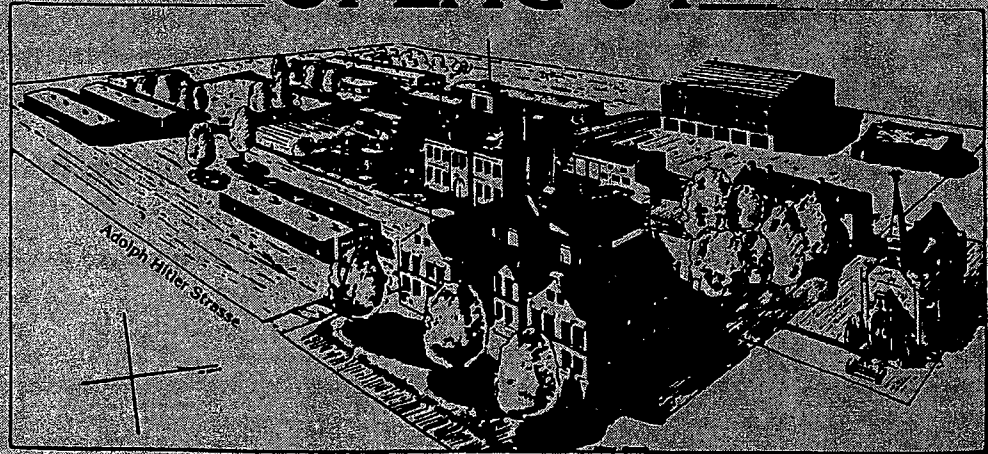


OFLAG 64



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 POW Camp, nor are the eleven guard towers shown.

BY JAMES BICKERS

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

ITEM VOL XXI # 4

SEPTEMBER 1985

Page 1

GLADWYNE, PA This is one of the unusual times that as soon as I got #3 Newsletter out I'm going to start the next one because so many of you have written to me and I haven't made any indication that I received your mail. Before I start on that, I want to thank Jim Fraser for his fine contribution. I omitted to acknowledge this in the previous letter. Sorry about that, Jim!

KINNELON, N.J. A nice short note from "Doc" Lou Salerno from this new address which I will see that is changed on our list with this mailing. Glad you enjoy the Post Oflog 64 Item. Take a nice vacation from your retirement and see us in Orlando. Sorry about the delay in the change of address. Glad to hear from you.

CINCINNATI, OH In case I haven't sent it to you here's the info you requested in your card to me. "48 Hours to Hammelburg" was written by Charles Whiting, published by Ballantine Books Inc 1970 and 1972 New York. I doubt they would have any copies there. I suggest you try:

ANTHONY MALTA
813 GREENWOOD RD
GLENVIEW, ILL. 60025

He is a second hand book dealer of Military Books. Just call him or drop him a line and he may be able to find a copy for you.

If you are unable to locate a copy I have a copy in the archives but would have to have a lot of assurances that I would get it back before I loaned it out.

"Raid" was written by Abe Baum. Thanks much for the contribution and sure hope to see you in Orlando.

My return to Hammelburg a few weeks ago was memorable.

LEXINGTON, VA Morris Jones wrote to me and sent me a contribution back in November of '82. Shows the extent of part of my backlog. There is no doubt in my mind that Amon, Jr was buried in the same Mausoleum that you made prior to N.W. 11. You may remember Amon if you ever picked up a

Sure glad the newsletter helped you to recall one of your old cubicle mates. Hope you can join us in Orlando and meet some more of the fellows that you didn't meet in Poland. See you in Orlando.

NOVELTY, OH A newspaper clipping really tells the story with variations of many of us in Oflog 64. I have taken the privilege of reproducing this for all of us because many of you remember Gaither Perry from our Oflog. I'm sure you'll enjoy Gaither's story. As for Gaither he'll have to figure out how I got the story. Thanks much for the article and it may be that we might have to use his 1/2 pound cannons if they cut the Defense Budget much more.

OSLO, NORWAY A nice but too brief a letter from Frank Bruhn our tour guide in Scandinavia. He expressed his sincere appreciation for our great adoption to the Hotel situation in Bergen. He started off the letter by the following and I quote: "I must say that this tour (group) was very special for me too, and I enjoyed it very much. So many fine people in one tour (group)!" Many thanks for the time we had together. Thanks to Frank for a great time.

WEST HEMPSTEAD, NY Well, the Great Entertainer has gone. Sol Levy who not only enjoyed keeping us in suspense with his jokes but also with his magical tricks.

We all who knew him have missed him at the last several reunions because of illness.

Many a reunion dinner evening with a take-off of Oberst Schneider (Dick Rossbach) and Hauptman Manner (Sol Levy). A laughable hilarious ending to a great evening.

It isn't always one can look back and remember the pleasant times one has enjoyed on the part of others. Sol Levy certainly was in this category.

His obituary is included in this newsletter elsewhere.

JEYTOWN, AL Jim Denmon sent me the name of John C. Reed 6623 Roe Chandler Rd Pinson, AL 35126 Thanks much for sending in John's name and were glad to welcome John back on the Mailing List. Welcome aboard.

WEST CHESTER, PA Bob Lobb dropped me a note letting me know that he had moved. Sure look forward to seeing you!

AIRFIELD BAY, AZ Thank you very much Jeanne Kearns for letting us know about Bartley's death. We were all looking to seeing him again after having made his first reunion in Las Vegas. We're happy that he got to Las Vegas. Bartley Kearns retired as Major U.S.A Feb, 10, 1962.

He died March 7, 1985 in Fairfield Bay, AZ. He left behind seven children and his wife Jeanne. Thank you again Jeanne.

Jeanne may be reached at 558 Harding Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

ALLINGBY, SWEDEN A nice newsy letter from Henry Soderberg. He had received several letters from our safari group that told him what a great time we all had on the German/Polish/Scandinavian safari. All those on the Scandinavian trip should by now have received the photographs of the group touring the Spab factory. What a fine PR gesture. Henry and I were also fortunate enough to briefly meet Henry & Claire in New York City. When he visited there for some research work in Mid August, it was great to see them again.

Henry has furthered his arrangements with the Air Force contributing much of his P.O.W. memorabilia to the Air Force Academy library where a P.O.W. archives and "museum" is being established under the current leadership of General "Bud" Clark, a former P.O.W./

HIGHLAND PARK, IL Received a copy of the Stalag Luft III, Kriegle Klarion summer '85. The 40th reunion in Denver was the largest they ever had. A very nice newsletter. They also issued a 40th anniversary Plate which looks terrific. Nice to have a contact with them.

EL PASO, TEXAS More info on Dick Heil who I mentioned in a previous newsletter. He had a massive heart attack on May 31, 1985, and was buried at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

JEYTOWN, AL In addition to the previous note from Jim Denmon I also received an earlier one saying he was sorry he missed being in Vegas. Loving and going to reunions is rough on the pocketbook. Sorry you couldn't be with us. You're sure close to Orlando though and hope you can make it. Thanks for contribution and sure hope you received the book by now. Look forward to seeing you in Orlando.

BALTIMORE, MD What an interesting letter from "Doc" Louis Tankin, two of our group who were treated by Doc Tankin in camp wrote to him thanking him for the treatment they received from him forty years ago.

A copy of the incident was also included in his letter where one recipient wrote about it in his memoirs.

"Doc" also remembers others of our group including "Doc" Di Francesco and Gen Waters. Sure hope nothing comes up next year to keep you from getting to Orlando.

CLEMSON, S.C. Another brief note from Wright & Ellen Bryon our illustrious reporter, who attended a recent wedding of his #3 grandson. He also indicated a grandson would start for I B M in Washington D.C. at this time. Thanks, Wright for the news.

EL PASO, TX Thanks to Milt Moore for sending in not only a contribution but also the name of Otto Amerall whose name was shown under new additions in the last issue, I hope. Otto is getting the Post Oflag Items now. I have extra copies of the "Reunion" at Las Vegas. If you or he would like one I am making a listing of items available at the end of this newsletter.

BETHESDA, MD "Doc" Di Francesco let me know for the 2nd time about his move to Bethesda. Also noting that he had a visit to Jim Fraser and Ann after the Las Vegas Reunion. The write up of the trip to Europe is on its way to you. Hope you like it.

WAQUOIT, MA Thanks much Bill Rudel for your kudos for the Editor, also your nice contribution. Glad to hear about Ken Goddard. Hope you are planning to make it to Orlando. It would be great to see you. Its nice to learn of the many contacts between the members of our group.

EL PASO, TX Great to hear from Roy Chappell. Wow! a real nice contribution as well as requests for many of the various things that are available on request free or paid. He also favors annual reunions, starting in 1987. Also favors helping rebuild chapel in Poland. Thanks for the replies. Roy and I'll get the items off to you. Hope Helen is better.

BETHESDA, M.D. Nice note from Wilbur Sharp as well as a contribution, which I am sorry I have been slow to process. I will try to process contribution faster from here on out. Have noted that you would like a set of the Items as may be copied by Jim Bickers. We will be looking forward to seeing you in Orlando. Nice to know we would have a possible spot to go in 1987, if it is decided to have Annual Reunions. We haven't been to Washington D.C. in a very long time. See You in Orlando.

ITEM VOL XXI

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. Thanks, Ed for the info on Donald Frederick. I have added his name back on the list and strongly recommend a slap on the wrist to the USPS who supplied me with the info. Glad your going to make Orlando, quite a feat to have over 4000 hours of volunteer work at your local VA Hospital. Keep up the good work and let's hear a big hand for Ed. Sager. Votes for Chapel project and annual reunion.

SARASOTA, FL. Brief note from Harry Frazee. Glad to hear from your Harry and sure hope you have put Oct. 10, 11, 12 1986 on your calendar for Orlando. Your as close as you will ever get unless you stage one in Sarasota. Interesting to note that you do solicitation work for the Gideon Society. You used to help pay my salary as I worked for the company that made the Bibles back in the 50's and 60's. Small world. The Society does a great work. See You in Orlando?

COLUMBIA, S.C. Real nice to hear from Johnny Shinn. I sure do remember you but I don't remember Robert Hutchison. What a place Zimmer "13" was. The following for the record were members of this "famous" Zimmer.

Jim Barnes
Woodley Warrick
Bill Angervine
Ed Moschel
Robert Hutchison

and last but not least

John Shinn
Col. Van Vliet & Col Oakes

were in next room.

I am working a tally of those desiring copies of the Item published in Oflag 64 and you can look for final decision on this in a future Newsletter.

Thanks much for the contribution. Funds are always welcome.

"Shorty" Shinn noted that he is still in touch by phone with all members of "13" at least every 4 to six weeks. Great! What a friendship! Hope You can make it to Orlando.

PULLMAN, WA. How nice of you to write as well as to send a contribution when you haven't been receiving the Post Oflag 64 Items for quite some time.

I'll make sure Leo K. Bustad to send you some of the recent back issues.

I frankly don't know how long your name has been off of the list but it's back on now and thanks much for all the material you sent some which I have included in this issue for others to read about.

I also received your recent letter which included a tentative itinerary for a RETIRED person. I would be bowled over I'm sure if I had seen one before you retired. Thanks much for everything.

It was good of Ed Batte to send you his copy of the newsletter. Your visit with the "Boomer" must have indeed been memorable. I most certainly do remember you at the '76 reunion as well as the memorable bow tie which you wore on Saturday Evening which was so bright that it brought the house down. You and Jerry Sage in the same house together

must have been a great event. Thanks again for your willingness to share all this info with all of us. A Diagonal trek across the country to Orlando would make us all real happy Leo.

HARWICK, MA. This note from Phil McIntyre came as a reply to my notice about the sudden death of Dick Heil. It is such an interesting note that I feel it best to quote the entire letter, including the last humorous sentence.

Dear John:

Regarding Dick Heil who passed away 31 May 85. We were captured together at St. Barthelemy near Mortain, France, 7 Aug 44. I was the only officer left in the company when Dick and McArthur were assigned. We were taken 3 days later. The Battalion Commander, Ernest Frankland, later became a Major General, Tennessee National Guard. I wasn't at Oflag 64 very long. I got sick and was transferred to the Lazaret at Wolsztyn where the Russians picked up about 37 officers and enlisted men in late February 1945. We were taken to Odessa, on the Black Sea. It was at Odessa that a tragic accident happened. The wall of a building collapsed and killed about 17 GIs. The tragic part was that they had mostly been captured in Africa and had lived through more than 2 years of captivity, had been liberated and were on their way home when their lives were snuffed out. There were about 600 Americans at Odessa on their way home and were on the HMS Circassia being taken to Naples. If you can't use the inclosed check just send it back.

Sincerely,
Phil
Phil McIntyre

P.S. Note new address.
P.O. Box 175
Harwick, MA 01037

Thanks also Phil for this note as well as the contribution which I'm sorry to say I will retain. Hope you can make Orlando.

BLENDALE, WI. Nice brief note from Otto C. Amerell who was just added to our mailing list in the last newsletter. He noted that on his arrival in June '43 he lived with Bedwell, Sweeney and Moore. He was with 1st Armored Div Recon Bn. Just in case you missed it someplace in this newsletter, we are having a reunion in Orlando, FL, Oct 10, 11, 12 1986. It will be at the Marriott Airport Hotel. Hope you can make it. You'll enjoy it. Guaranteed!

Melrose, MA. Another reply in favor of Annual reunions and also assist in fund to help with renovation of chapel. Geo. Maibach Hope you enjoyed your stay in Florida, George!

Grove City, OH. I guess Grove City, PA was first but none of our group lives there so I have to recognize Ohio because Otis Bradford does live there and he's a great guy and a real authentic librarian. He also deals in Olive drab wool caps knitted. He still has a supply of them but he won't part with the last one. He also puts in a vote for an Annual Reunion.

Hope your well and that you don't get too many requests for your wool cap.

HUDSON, FL. Annette Secor. I hope we have your address correct now. It's been a hard fight! Thanks for your patience. See you in Orlando.

MÜNCHEN, WEST DEUTSCHLAND Astrid Bronisch, A Nice note on a postcard indicating what a great pleasure it was to be our guide while in Bavaria and Austria on the recent Safari there. Those on the trip may be receiving a call from her as she expects to be in U.S.A. the latter part of October.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. A short note from Clarence Meltesen who was on the safari with us to Germany & Scandinavian Countries. He has of course recovered from jet lag by now and forwarded a snapshot of yours truly taken on the trip. Hope your planning to meet again in Orlando.

San Rafael, CA. Thanks much to Col. Matt Smith for the obituary on Don Stewart. He was indeed a great guy. We all appreciate your sending it to George Juskalich and his forwarding it to us.

ATLANTA, GA. Another note from one of our safari group, Jim Bancker. Both he and Peggy thoroughly enjoyed the trip and now off on another personal one to France. See you in Orlando, if not before. Thanks much for the contribution to the postage fund.

MONTGOMERY, AL. Ted Rinehart sent a nice long typed letter and included the article enclosed referring to the "Captured payroll". Thought you would all enjoy that story. Ted is planning a trip to Spain & Portugal next month. Hope you have a good time Ted.

He also suggested that I include a note about the 3rd Inf Div Assoc. meeting Sept 26-29 1985. Sorry I missed an advance notice of this Ted, but perhaps some of our group may well be 3rd Div but not members of the group. If your not members of the group write to:

John S. Cole
2350 Middlecoff Dr.
Dunedin, FL 33528
Tel. (813) 733-2746

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Welcome back Dr. Daniel. The only reason you were dropped from the mailing list was because mail was not forwardable and I couldn't locate where you could be reached. Your name is back on the mailing list now. As you may know several of the 168th boys from Iowa have passed on to the Great Beyond. If you haven't kept up with them let me know and I'll be glad to fill you in based on my records.

Thank you very much for the copy of 'In the Presence of Mine Enemies'. It was very interesting narration and in many ways was a parallel of my time on the road and winding up at 7-A. I do not recall your services there but that is not hard to understand as I was for a period of about three weeks at the end in charge of the Kitchen and responsible for feeding all P.O.W.'S in the Camp.

Anyone who would like to read Captain Daniels interesting book may obtain it from him by sending \$6.00 to: Eugeng L. Daniels, Jr.
5311 Robinhood Rd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28211

We certainly hope you will join us in Orlando, FL. Reserve the dates now on your own calendar Oct 10, 11, 12, 1986. It will be held at the Marriott Airport Hotel. Look forward to seeing you there!

Roswell, N.M. Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Walter Gill for sending the address of Capt Leo Thieme. His name is now on our list and maybe he could be persuaded to come to Orlando also. Look forward to seeing you again, there!

San Diego, CA. Another note from a safarite Quincey Drake. Mentioned Seymour Bollen who served with the late Col. Drake. Also thanks very much for your very nice contribution to Postage Fund. That will pay for quite a few letters. Your vote on annual reunions has been recorded as I have also been tallying everyone who mentioned it. Your reaction to your feelings of having been behind the "Iron Curtain" is indeed well understood, by all who have experienced it. Not only former service persons but also others who journey there.

One of the reasons for all to keep writing our Senators & Congressman on how we feel about the issues of the day.

Hope you can make Orlando.

Roselle Park, N.J. Boy! the safarities are keeping the newsletter going this time. A note from Charles Eberle, told of a long phone conversation with Eddie Berlinski. Thanks, Charlie for this effort. We'll see what happens with this mailing. Eddie hopes to make Orlando and it will be good to see him. Mark the dates down now. We'll all be looking forward to seeing and talking with you.

MONTGOMERY, AL. Included (I think) in Ted Rinehart's letter was a clipping reviewing another P.O.W. book by Joseph P. O'Donnell, Air Corps, who was a Lower ball turret gunner on a B-17 and was shot down over Wiener Newsladt, Austria and was marched for 86 days from Stal ag Luft IV at Grossly chow in NE corner of Germany. Lots of pictures maps & Charts. If you would like a copy for your Library write to: Joseph P. O'Donnell
20 Droucke Dr.
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691

MANKOTA, Mn. Thanks Royal Lee for answering my questions in your letter of Aug 12. The reason you couldn't find us at the Hotel Imperial is because when the trip was pinned down, there was no space at the Imperial and we had to change to the Hotel Admiral. This turned out to be a very interesting one and well worth the change. We sure missed having you with us. See you in Orlando. Your reasoning on annual reunions is logical so we'll have to see what the group says at Orlando.

GLADWYNE, PA. Notes on chapel project. Knowing that many questions come up about such a project I asked George Juskaian to check with the State Dept. first. This he did very kindly, and they referred the idea right back to Phila. to the Archdiocese Bishop's Office here. I hope to have some info on this to report in newsletter the first week in October. For those of you who may question this approach, just keep in mind the following:-

1. This is a church related, thus religious project.
2. The Catholic church is all power in Poland.
3. The Pope is Polish.
4. The Cardinal in Philadelphia is also Polish.

Based on the above I think this makes sense. We hope to get info on cost, local support, who handles the money, etc. More information as it develops.

COLUMBIA, S.C. What a fascinating trip Don Graul just had with his brother sailing the Great Lakes. He covered 1154 miles in 30 days with excellent weather all the way. Your comment on Jerry Sage was well put. He is indeed a dedicated guy and also to this country. Don thanks on your annual reunion vote and the Polish Chapel. We'll have to see what reaction we get in Orlando. The quantity of replies is not enough to indicate any trend so far. Thanks, Don for contribution and continue to enjoy your sailing. Will watch a travel film in October on sailing along the Riviera by an American, Chris Hall. See you in Orlando.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. Another brief note from Clarence Meltesen. According to my notes on March 4 we were still waiting for word on a train. Also on Mar. 5, Mar 6. Rose at 3:30 AM left Sigglekow at 600M for Parchim. Arrived at 090 AM. Boarded car. 32 men + 4 guard car. Left at 10:30. Special train of 17 cars. Fairly fast moving (train). I didn't make any notes on the Appel. It was certainly like Oberst Schneider to give a lecture about trying to escape. The fact was that I was housed in the schoolhouse and not in the barns with most of the group. I hope this helps!

SWARTHMORE, PA. Brief note along with a nice contribution from my good friend and fairly close neighbor, Tom Miller. Glad you enjoyed Jerry's book. You'll receive your copy of the report on Safari to Europe before you get this newsletter. Hope we can get to gether before Orlando.

POTOMAC FALLS, Md. A nice long letter from General Waters. He wrote about a recent article that I had sent to him for his comments. The article is from the Saturday Evening Post of 1948. The title of this article is "Untold story of Kasserine Pass". I will be glad to send anyone a copy of this article that might not have seen it 40 years ago. Cost \$2.00. I found it very interesting and a new insight on Sidi Bou Said. It will also make a great conversation topic at Orlando.

GLADWYNE, PA. So as to conclude this newsletter may I add a final note to each of you to set aside.

OCTOBER 10, 11, 12, 1986 and meet our great Group in Orlando at the Marriott Airport Hotel. Enclosed is a brochure from Orlando Chamber of Commerce which I'm sure you will find very interesting.

The following is a listing of the items that I have available at the present time and the cost to you of each.

1. 20 Copies of the 1964 Reunion Photo Album held in Philadelphia \$10.00
2. Map of German Prisoner of War camp thruout the German Empire - SASE \$.22
3. Story of 40th Anniversary tour return to Oflag 64, Moosburg and Hammelburg, SASE \$.39
4. Copies of American Red Cross Bulletins pertaining to oflag 64.
5. Copy of 1948 Saturday Evening Post "Untold Story of Kasserine Pass," \$ 2.00
6. Military Intelligence Service report on Oflag 64. Very factual. S.A.S.E. \$.
7. Report of Haynes personal account of March S.S.A.E. \$.
8. Reunion Photo Album LAS Vegas \$ 15.00
9. Sage by our own Jerry Sage \$ 5.00
10. "Raid" by Abe Bourn etc Story of Hammelburg Raid. \$ 10.00
11. 3 only Extra Group Photographs of 1980 Reunion at Dubuque, firsy come first mailed.
12. "Patton's Biggest Mistake" The story of the "Raid" in Hommelburg and excerpted from "48 Hours to Hommelburg Saturday Evening Post May 1, 1948 \$ 2.00

WEST BOYLSTON, MA. Ormond Roberts always comes thru with a nice contribution and a brief but factual note. Thanks much Ormond. May I suggest that you send all the snapshots to me and let me see what I can do with them for possible distribution to all who may be interested. Are all of the persons in the snapshots identified? If not do what you can and then we'll see who else can help out. Sure look forward to seeing you in Orlando.

DAYTONA BEACH, FL. This is a condensed report from our 1986 Chairman Dick Meskill. The Airport Marriott has agreed to take us and we even have it in writing. Great show! Dick! Dick has written me about all the fine featured of this Hotel. To those familiar with the area, this Hotel is located on the South end of SR 436. Lots of other retail outlets within a short distance as well as close by, all of the major attractions. You'll be interested to know that I have added the name of Robert Dees to the mailing list and he will receive this issue. This is the end and what a great note to end on. Welcome!

ENGLAND, ARK. The one and only who thinks I have become a Democrat. Billy Bingham came thru in time for the final few words of this newsletter. Great! to hear from you, Billy. I'm sure the bankers & money lenders would strongly object to your 90% tax, but I do agree that the international bankers do need some curbing. I'm glad to hear a good harvest is in order so you can have enough "pennies" to get to Orlando next year. Taint fan! You should get the Schubert report before this newsletter. Don't forget Orlando Oct 10, 11, 12, 1986

I received a letter signed, Bob, in May but the return address got separated from the letter. So Bob please write me again and tell me in what state Eugene Gould of Petersburg is located and then I'll try to contact him. Thanks.

John Slack

ENTERPRISE, AL. Last issue my sources gave me an address for obtaining the hard back copy of "Sage". This info was wrong as any body that got order back (I At least I did.) Here's the latest send \$ 15.95 plus \$ 2.00 postage & handling to:
 Jerry Sage
 200 Pineview Dr
 Enterprise, AL. 36330
 Also include the first and last name of whomever is to receive the book and it will be signed by the Author Jerry Sage. (see enclosed order blank) Thanks, Jerry for the update on this information and for blanks.

MIAMI, FL. A very nice and most unusual phone call from Syd that our General Chairman of our 1986 Reunion in Miami. (What a great one!) Syd had received a phone call from an Englishman he hadn't heard from or seen in 42 years, a John Pearson. Turns out he is here, in the USA in Beverly Hills, CA in the film production business. John Pearson was one of a group of four who jumped the train from Italy to Moosburg. This group included, Frank Aten, Honace Spaulding and Syd Thal. Syd has already been to see him on another mission when he became a grandfather. Congrats Syd and thanks for sharing this story with me, your sole editor. See you in Orlando.

BEVERLY HILLS, CA. Welcome indeed John Pearson. Your name has been added to our mailing list and we look forward to seeing and meeting you in Orlando. Oct 10, 11, 12, 1986. See next item.



Germans were holding the bag when payday rolled around

On Dec. 14, 1944, 1st Lt. Robert E. Rutt was given a sack of money at the headquarters of the 422d Infantry Regiment of the 106th Division in St. Vith, Belgium, and told to take it to the front lines and pay the unit's officers.

On Dec. 16, the German Army, displaying an absolute lack of concern for Lt. Rutt's fiscal mission, counterattacked in what came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge.

A week later, Lt. Rutt, still carrying most of the money, was taken prisoner.

On Sept. 14, 1945, the Office of the Fiscal Director, Headquarters Army Service Forces, Washington 25, D.C., sent Mr. Robert E. Rutt, Detroit civilian, a letter:

"A textbook example of the stiff but correct 'TO, FROM, and SUBJECT' military communication, it informed Rutt that a board of officers had been convened 'to investigate the loss of funds in the amount of \$14,936.04 intrusted (sic) to you in December, 1944.'"

"If the funds are still in your possession," the letter went on, "it is requested that a certified check or money order in the amount of \$14,936.04 be forwarded to this office."

"The frightening thing about it," Rutt says today, "was that besides what was left of my mustering-out pay, I had no money in the world and the Army wanted me to send them nearly \$15,000. I think I even had to borrow the stamp to answer the letter."

His wife, Lucille, he says, was pregnant with their second child. "She just kept saying, 'What are we going to do?'"

Rutt, who was in law school at the University of Detroit before he went into the Army, did what any serious student of the law would have done. He answered the Army's letter with one that was a full page longer.

Rutt, now a partner in the law firm of Plunkett, Cooney, Rutt, Watters, Slanczyk & Pedersen, explained to the Army that the vouchers for the money he had disbursed were given to other officers and were eventually lost in the confusion of battle.

What remained of the money had been taken by the Germans, despite his protests that it rightfully belonged to the U.S. Government.

Actually, Rutt says, he doesn't really know how much of the money he had left when he was captured.

"The officers I was paying were on a front

of about 10 miles," Rutt says, "and it wasn't easy getting to some of them. When the Germans started their drive into the Ardennes we were hit pretty hard, and by that time getting paid wasn't as important to the officers as it had been earlier."

So when the Germans surrounded his unit, Rutt was still carrying most of the payroll.

"It was in Belgian francs," he says, "and included a bag of coins that weighed about 10 pounds. When it got bad, I asked a private if he'd like some money and gave him the bag of coins. I took the rest of it and stuffed some of it in every pocket I had."

He and another officer tried to break out of the encirclement but were captured by a German armored unit.

"Every time I got searched," he says, "they found some of the money, but it took about a month before they got it all."

Even as a prisoner, Rutt says, he knew that someone, someday, would want to know what happened to the money. So he did what any reasonable person who understood the military bureaucracy would do.

"I asked the Germans for a receipt. I told them it wasn't my money, and if they were going to take it then they were going to have to give me a receipt for it."

After their initial astonishment at the demand from a person so obviously in no position to make demands of any kind, Rutt got two receipts from the Germans for the money.

On one of the receipts Rutt asked a German officer to specify that Rutt's personal money, some 2,060 Belgian francs, was found in his wallet, separate from the Army's funds. The German officer made the notation and listed the amounts separately.

In his letter to Washington, Rutt pointed out that he had not, as yet, been reimbursed for the 2,060 francs, although he had filed a claim in August.

"I also told the Army that the Germans had taken the money before I had a chance to pay myself," Rutt said. "I told them the Army still owed me my pay for November 1944."

The Army sent Rutt a check and has made no further inquiries about the \$14,936.04.

Rutt expects to hear no more. "I think the statute's probably run out on that by now."



Robert E. Rutt as a soldier and today.

New Additions

John C. Reed
5623 Roe Chandler Rd
Pinson, AL 35126

Eugene L. Daniel Jr. D.D.
5311 Robinhood Rd
Charlotte, NC 28211

Leo V. Thieme
Red Rock's Ranch
18125 Red Rock's Dr.
Monument, CO 80132

John Pearson
The Good Show Corporation
8920 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 424
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Robert Dees, Sales Mgr.
Orlando Airport Marriott
7499 Augusta National Drive
Orlando, FL 32812

Change of address

Harvey Frazee
P.O. Box 568
Simpel, FL 33957-0568

Robert L. Weinberg
1695 2nd St 3507
Highland Park, IL 60035-3511

Dr. Louis L. Salerno
109 Fayson Lakes Rd
Kinnelston, NJ 07405

Robert Lobb
256 Chatham Way
West Chester, PA 19380-5874

Vincent J. Di Francesco, M.D.
5121 Manning Dr
Bethesda, MD 20814

Philip Mc Intyre
P.O. Box 175
Hardwick, MA 01037

Annette B. Secor
12525 Morgan Rd
Hudson, FL 33562

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(OVER)

COM

Still sor

Re

By Joan Demirjian

"For you, the
Those words spoken
soldier marked
Perry's fighting
War II, but the be
years as a priso

Perry entered the
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the age of 21 when

Recently, he
recalled those years
war was a daily part
American civil
And although some
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Perry still some
to talk about them

HIS POW EX
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While the war year
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and excitement,

Both were livin
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returned home from

Miami was im
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trained there. A
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officers.

AS A VOLUNTEER
Anne helped ret
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to families and f
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"Florida was
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time for us kids
were scared for

Filled with patriot
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forces, said Galtner
said, 'Parachute
alone,' I would
boys, he said, were
would be over be



Sun photo by Kevin Reeves

Gaither Perry of Russell is on his way out to chop some wood at his home on the banks of the Chagrin River. Memorial Day annually stirs memories of the months he spent as a prisoner of war in World War II

Remembering war time

As a member of the 34th Infantry Division, Gaither received British Commando training in Scotland, then went to Africa where the U.S. had set up a base of command.

DURING A BATTLE in the Sahara at the Kefeiamar Mountain Pass,

"If they had said, 'Parachute into a beachhead alone,' I would have done it."

where Gaither was captain, one of the men, a sergeant, was wounded.

Gaither remained with the wounded man overnight in a shell hole. In the morning, Gaither, relieved to see what he thought was a 1st Armored insignia, waved and then put his gun aside to attend to the sergeant.

His attention diverted, he was taken by surprise by the tall, blond German soldier telling him "For you the war is over."

Gaither was taken to a small shack where he stayed in the custody of a German sergeant and a Doberman pinscher. The soldiers shared supper, with Gaither providing the luxury of a packet of powdered coffee he had in his pocket.

Through the night, Gaither waited his chance to escape, but to no avail. "The dog didn't close his eyes once all night," he recalled.

On a plane to Sicily, Gaither saw the famed German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who was highly respected by even the American soldiers.

After an aborted escape attempt while in Italy, Gaither was taken with other American ground officers to Oflag 64 in Poland.

He spent most of his captivity in that camp, attempting along with the other men, to survive and to escape. During his two years, his weight dropped from 152 to 112, and standard food fare was spoiled potatoes and turnips.

Once in a while, the Germans

would give the men a 500 pound hog. "We'd cook the whole thing, eyeballs, ears and all."

When a cat came into camp, they nurtured it carefully with what food they could give it, with an eye to the day they'd eat it, said Gaither. He remembers well, the day the cat caught a rabbit and they feasted on rabbit soup.

Despite the meager nutritional sustenance, the men worked constantly at digging their way out of the camp. The Germans, however, weren't concerned. At regular intervals, they set off explosives, collapsing the tunnels.

Determined to outwit the Germans, the prisoners began an ambitious project, digging down 14 feet and then 25 horizontally. Dirt from the hole was tediously removed by filling socks and dumping it outside, said Gaither.

Before they could finish, the Germans got word that the Russian allies were on their way, so the Americans were marched out of the camp.

IN A DARING ESCAPE, four men, including Gaither, hid in a hay loft, surviving a raking of their hiding place by German gunfire.

From the hayloft, the four took flight, with only army blankets for cover, across the Polish countryside. They traveled at night, sleeping in barns and hay-covered manure piles, which generated life-saving heat. The men "borrowed" clothing from dead soldiers to augment their skimpy prison garb. Aided by friendly Polish families and a tiny compass found in a special plug in the boot of a British soldier the POWs made their way across the snow-covered land.

They learned to avoid the Russians, who liked to steal Americans' boots and watches. Those early encounters were a forewarning of how the Russians would behave later in history, but few people took the hint.

THE FOUR TOOK REFUGE on their journey to Warsaw in an abandoned concentration camp where the frozen bodies of victims were

stacked six feet high near the gas chambers.

They finally made it to Odessa on the Black Sea, where they were taken in by Russians, deloused and given physicals, before being taken on by a British ship bound for Egypt.

There, they were put up at Mussolini's summer lodge and fattened on milk shakes before the trip home.

GAITHER was one of the first POWs to return to the Miami area. Newspapers chronicled the return of each of the men. It was at Camp Blanding during meal time, when Gaither head the click of heels behind him, "I looked up, and there was the German sergeant I had shared supper with when I was captured. (Many German POWs stayed in Florida during their captivity.) He couldn't believe I had made it back. 'What happened to you,' he said? I answered, 'I escaped.' 'I didn't,' he said."

Returning WWII soldiers, unlike those of the Vietnamese War were

"It was a 'dramatic time enhanced by our youth and excitement.'"

given the red carpet treatment, pointed out Anne and Gaither.

Everywhere, people greeted them with open arms and like heroes. When Gaither traveled throughout the country on his R & R, he was often served free of charge in restaurants, he said. The end of the war was celebrated with wild joy, across the nation, and especially in Miami.

Although both were deeply involved in the war effort, and Anne knew of Gaither through newspaper clippings, they did not formally meet until a blind date.

They were married in 1947, and tried their hand at citrus farming. When they made more money selling the rattle snakes in their grove than the fruit, they decided to move

War time

Continued from page B1

to Cleveland. They bought home in Russell in 1950.

REFLECTING on those years of their life, they recall them as of their youth. That "dramatic exciting" time in the Perrys gradually faded into new era raising a son and daughter, and their own retirement. Pictures Gaither in uniform and their post-war courtship hang on the wall with

photos of their children's growing years.

The "war years" remain no more significant than other periods in their lives, they say. And yet, the influence of those years cannot be denied. They are still vivid enough, to evoke deep emotions, a tear perhaps and even memories of happy times.

Italian war prisoners won captors' hearts at WWII Pine Camp

By Matthew Spina
Staff Writer

FORT DRUM — Their grave-stones still stand erect, the ground around them well-tended and unflustered in the 40 years that have passed since their deaths.

The stones, six in a cluster and one several paces away, symbolize not only death, but the difference between lives of German and Italian prisoners at what was known as Pine Camp during World War II.

The little cluster is tucked away in a cemetery on what is now Fort Drum.

The six stones mark the resting place of Germans. Not much is known about how they died. The stone that stands alone guards the grave of Rino Carlutti, a private in the Italian army who drowned in Remington Pond on a warm October day in 1944.

Pine Camp was a training spot for U.S. soldiers, but there are estimates that as many as 7,000 prisoners were confined there. In the eyes of city residents as well as officers at the camp, all prisoners were not equal.

The German prisoners, kept under guard and behind fences, were only allowed out when they went to work, mostly in canning factories and in fields picking crops. In Watertown, the Germans were scorned, maligned, mistreated.

Life for the Italian prisoners was much better, remembers Henry V. Cumoletti, who was an administrative assistant at the camp during much of the war. Cumoletti later served as a court reporter at the Nuremberg War Trials.

Now 77, he spends much of his time giving lectures about the trials and describing his view of the defeated German high command. His Watertown home is filled with memorabilia from Nuremberg and Pine Camp.

Cumoletti and other longtime city residents remember that the Italian POWs were embraced by Watertown's Italian community, which at the time was concentrated in a west-side area called the Sand Flats.

The Italian prisoners were segregated from the Germans and placed in nicer barracks not confined by a fence. On weekends and holidays, the city's Italian families would have POWs over for dinner. Others would go up to the camp for picnics with the prisoners.

"They were just thrilled to be here and the local families would

have them over to talk about Italy," Cumoletti said. "A lot of the prisoners were sorry they had to go back when the war was over, but they were homesick for their families."

He said the government recognized the affection that Italian-Americans had for the prisoners and allowed them more liberty.

"They would never put the Germans and Italians together because of the hatred and contempt they had for each other," he said.

"You would get to talking with the men and they would go about reliving their days in Italy," said Anna Cumoletti, Henry's wife. "And whenever we went up there to see them, they'd always bake us a cake."

The Italian prisoners were allowed to print a small newspaper, "La Stelletta" (The Star) was "Published every Saturday for the benefit and orientation of Italian signees and the personnel" of the U.S. units stationed there, it said.

In their writings, the Italians said their hearts were with the Americans. Under one column heading, translated to mean "When the Cause is Just," an unidentified prisoner wrote that many Italians "for essential and psychological reasons and traditional reasons, could not fight on the side of the Germans."

The paper dedicated the cover of one edition to a drawing of Gen. Mark W. Clark, commander of the 5th U.S. Army in Italy. On the back cover is a full-page drawing of an American B-29.

There is a column called "Reflections of Life in America." And a special edition of La Stelletta gives the phonetics for some popular American songs, the National Anthem among them.

They had beautiful voices, remembers Andrew Cook, a Syracuse resident who grew up in Watertown and was stationed at the camp. Cook said the Italian men always gave his children big hugs because they missed their own so much.

Cumoletti used a July 1944 edition of the Italians' newspaper to help estimate the length of the POWs stay at Pine Camp because he was not there when they first arrived.

In the life in America column the writer notes he had been there for a year and a half. Cumoletti says prisoners were at the camp at least in early 1943.

When the war was over, none of the Italians stayed in Watertown.

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Cemetery, M

John R. Dervay

John Robert Dervay,
Northridge Drive, W
died Sunday (July 7,
10 General Hospital.

A retired New Y
examiner who worked
the past 10 years, Dr
in Binghamton and l
he moved to Buffalo. H
ously a bank officer
Bank in Binghamton.

While serving the
War II, he was a pris

Dervay was also
treasurer for the L.
America and was a

from Delta Soc. Bulletin

Levy, 67

Solomon Levy, 67, former ... Co. in Manhattan, died of pneu... ay at Franklin General Hospital.

Brooklyn native, waited tables in ... ayed the violin to earn a liv...

his marriage in 1942, Mr. Levy ... as stationed in Europe. Dur... he was captured and held as a

camp, Mr. Levy passed time ... eventually learning the trade ... his release in 1944, said his ... ayus of Huntington.

Manhattan, Mr. Levy worked ... tch repairman. In 1960, he ... y Co., which he ran until he re-

Hempstead resident, was also a ... as "The Amazing Lee" — ... parties with sleight-of-hand

clude his wife, Edna; two ... lasman of Silver Spring, Md., ... ithersburg, Md.; two broth... n Heights and Ralph Levy of ... oris Rubin of Brooklyn, and six

ce, 2 p.m. today, Beth Moses

Solomon, on Wed. August ... West Hempstead. Born ... R., Brooklyn in 1918. ... of the famed Lee ... Co. in N.Y.C. for over 25 ... longly there as ... as "The Amas... while he performed ... Honorary member of the ... American Magicians ... as also a long-time ... the Knights of Pyth... achieved the rank of 1st ... serving his country in ... ces during W.W. II. ... ing P.O.W. and non... charged. He leaves his ... his three beloved ... yce Ellen Baylla of ... Leslie Joan Glass... of Tina Robin Eurland both ... and, and six grandchil... ret, Leslie, Michael, ... and James. Services ... graveside at Beth Moses ... Melville, Friday, Au... at 2 P.M.

to News/Tuesday, July 9, 1985
State Bank Examiner

of their Silver Beaver Award for mer... torious service.

He was a member of the Valley of Cornish Scottish Rite Masons and the Ismailia Temple of Buffalo.

Surviving are his wife, the former Dorothy Luty; three sons, John R. Jr. of Atlanta, Ga., Douglas of Long Island and Dana of the U.S. Navy; a sister, Shawne of Atlanta, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday in Chopyak, Schoider Funeral Home Inc., 326 Prospect St., Binghamton. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Binghamton.

PERIPATETIC PRESIDENT

Leo Bustad:
A rare and
valuable man

By Linda Hines

The man at the helm of the Delta Society was honored April 5 when one of the largest and most sophisticated buildings at Washington State University, Pullman, Wash., was named the Leo K. Bustad Veterinary Science Building.

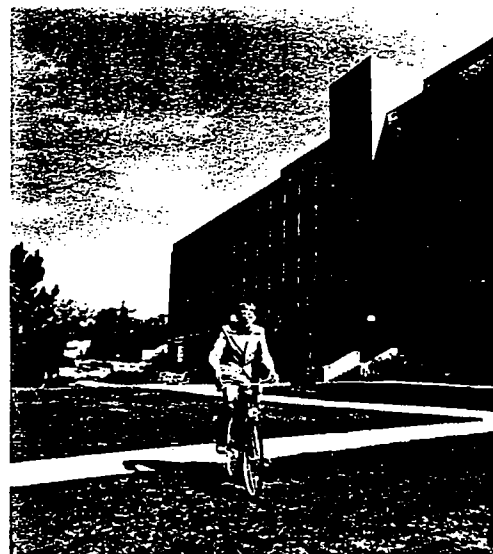
Bustad confessed a little embarrassment about seeing his name attached to brick and mortar. "You just don't have anything on file to say under these circumstances," he said, looking owlish as he peered over his bifocals. "It's difficult to think of yourself as a building."

During the day's dedication ceremonies, a painting was unveiled and presented to Bustad. Now hanging in the foyer of the Bustad Veterinary Science Building, this painting was commissioned by Sancho* of Seattle, Wash., to depict Dr. Bustad's contribution to the history of veterinary medicine. This painting has been reproduced on the inside cover of this issue of "People-Animals-Environment."

As stated in the dedication program: "Currently, Dean Bustad is recognized as one of the world's foremost advocates of the use of animals to help people, especially the elderly and the handicapped. He has been special lecturer and guest speaker addressing the cause of the human-companion animal bond on numerous occasions, such as the J.V. Lacroix Memorial Lectureship of the American Animal Hospital Association, and at international conferences in England, Scotland, and Australia. He now serves actively as the first president of the Delta Society."

Bustad is a man of humility. Others, though, have provided insight into the man and sung his praises in their writings. Perhaps the most enduring tributes come from colleagues and the students he loves to teach. Because of the building dedication, we thought this was an appropriate time to share these tributes with you.

*Sancho ('78 MFA, Washington State University, cum laude) is currently vice president at Gene Davis & Associates, one of Seattle's oldest and largest graphic design firms. He designs annual reports, exhibits, packaging, corporate communications print materials, product and service literature and corporate identity programs for many companies.



From the dedication written by Drs. Aaron Katcher and Alan Beck in "New Perspectives on Our Lives with Companion Animals" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983):

"There is a similarity between poetic and scientific imagination. The resemblance is greatest when a new area of research begins to command attention. Without research support, recognition in journals and scientific meetings, a place in a curriculum, ideas are very much like 'airy nothing.' It is necessary for people of both vision and resource to give them 'habitation and a name.' Research and teaching about the bond between people and companion animals was given such a habitation within veterinary medicine by Dean Leo K. Bustad of Washington State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. Dean Bustad has, through enormous persuasive effort, generated national and international interest and support for work in this area, bringing veterinarians, health care professionals, and the humane community into a working relationship with each other. The fruits of that working relationship included this conference (Philadelphia, 1981), the international network of societies fostering an interest in human beings and companion animals and the model People-Pet Partnership Programs at Washington State University ..."

over +

People-Animals-Environment