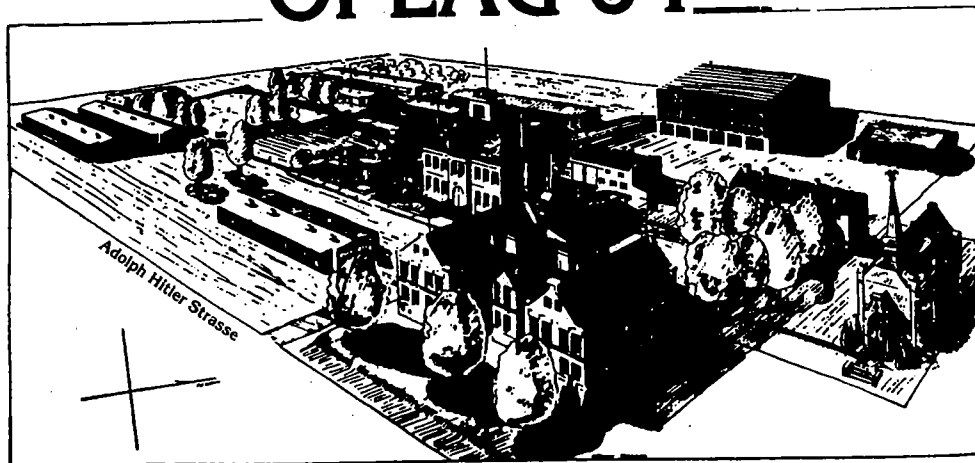


# OFLAG 64



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

ITEM VOL XX1

#5

DECEMBER, 1985

PAGE 1

LADWYNE, PA Certainly at this time of the year we really have to budget our time so that we can get caught up in the Spirit of the Season. I know there has been plenty happening in your various communities. I couldn't express the times better than the outstanding memory jogger of all times than the enclosed one I received from Reed. I'm sure he won't mind my sharing it with each of you.

\*\*\*\*\*

PINSON, AL. Thanks much John for the terrific holiday greeting. I certainly hope you don't mind conveying it to the 360 odd other fellows on the list. God Bless!

\*\*\*\*\*

NYDER, N.Y. Welcome to Chuck Mc Elligott, Thanks goes to George Juskalian for sending me the list from Ex-POW Bulletin with your name on the list. Hope you can get to join us in Orlando in Oct 10, 11, 12, 1986, for our great reunion which will be held at the Airport Marriott. Plan on it now!

\*\*\*\*\*

MUNEDIN, FL Also welcome to Robert "Bob" Koeler who's name we added from the same source. Your also more than welcome to join us in Orlando. Thanks George for picking these two up for us.

\*\*\*\*\*

PHILA, PA You may have read in the newspapers about a recent Catholic Synod that took place in Rome. It was chaired by Archbishop Cardinal Krol of the Diocese of Phila. A friend of Pope John Paul and a good Polish Priest. I learned about a week before he left for Rome that he planned to check out the possibilities involved in setting about to refurbish the chapel at Oflag 64. I'm sure that after the Holidays I will be able to get a first hand report on this situation, I will keep you posted. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

YOUNGSTOWN, OH. Welcome to another addition to our mailing list, thanks going again to George Juskalian. Hope you can make it to our reunion in Orlando on Oct 10, 11, 12, 1986.

\*\*\*\*\*

POTOMAC, MD. Thanks much <sup>GENERAL</sup> for the contribution to the Postage Fund. Hope you received the items I mailed to you, OK. Thanks also on the info on Leo Bustad. As you know by now he also sent me the same articles. I wonder if Leo ever found out about the late General's relationship to Jekyll Island?

Glad you took advantage of the fine Indian summer weather we had. It's gone now where I am anyway with the temperature down to the teens at night. Thanks for the three letters in such a short space of time. It was great! Hope to see you over the Holiday.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAN ANTONIO, TX Bud Williamson sent me a big check and a request for so many items, I had to call on help from Sears Catalog mailing department to make sure I got it off to you. Not really. Hope you received everything OK and that I gave you a complete order. Thanks also for the extra in the Postage Fund. Sure looking forward to more info on the 36th Div.

\*\*\*\*\*

ENTERPRISE, AL Clay Metcalf has certainly been a busy man with his business, his family and his books. He has now written at least 5 Books and were not short ones either. They are still available if anyone is interested. One is called "Kriegy". Write to Clay and he'll be glad to ship you one for the price. I'll have to get to Enterprise, AL. to see what it is that makes it conducive to writing books! Thanks for the contribution.

EL PASO, TX Had a terrific phone call in October from Roy & Helen Chappell, always nice to hear from the folks in Texas as well as elsewhere. Looking forward to Orlando to say hello in person. See you Roy & Helen.

\*\*\*\*\*

LEESBURG, FL. Glad to send some articles to Col. Van Vliet. Thanks much for the order and the address correction, I think we now have it correct. See you in Orlando Next Year.

\*\*\*\*\*

DAYTONA Beach, FL. Boy, I guess you all know by now with this town name that it has to do with reunion 1986. Your right!  
A long letter from Dick Meskill and wants me to point out a few extra features now which I will also repeat at a later date.

- 1- The room price may include one or two extra children under 18 at same price.
- 2. Four adults may have one ~~with~~ bedded room for \$ 80.00/night. Four of you guys get together it will seem like the old days at 64.
- 3. Save your "pennies" for "drinking and bashing" as prices by the time we get there may be on the high side.

If things get too bad we'll just have to revert to old customs and get out the raisins and "Kliff" cookstoves and make our own. (I hope not.)

Along with all Dick has been doing he had surgery repair on his Abdominal Aorta. Glad your an optimist and that the Lord blessed you with healing care. I guess Stephanie helped to. I'm real glad your happy I didn't have to find a new chairman, Anyway it's on to Orlando in great shape. Stay well, please, Dick.

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW YORK CITY, NY Sure looking forward to seeing Dick Rossbach again in 86. He asked about Doctor Jim Godfrey who was at 64 until sent to Wollstein to attend American P.O.W.'s at that German Hospital. Fortunately, I contacted Al Kasner who happened to have been a personal friend of the Doctor's. However, try as he might Al was unable to track him...Any one knowing anything about the whereabouts of Dr. Jim Godfrey, just get in touch with Dick Rossbach.

C/O Ingalls & Snyder  
61 Broadway  
N.Y.C., NY 10006

Thanks. Hope someone does!

\*\*\*\*\*

LAS VEGAS, NV Alan Dunbar wanted me to let everyone know that; he is more than willing to help anyone that have claims or other problems with the V.A.. He is the National Service Director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He also worked for the VA for over 34

years. As he said I should not have <sup>ANY TROUBLE</sup> to get things done with them.

Call Alan or write him;  
Mr. Alan Dunbar

4675 Green Canyon Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Thanks, Alan for the offer.

Alan is "Chomping at the Bit" to see everyone in Orlando. He says the Union Plaza Plaza want us back. Anyone have any extra quarters. See You in Orlando, Alan.

\*\*\*\*\*

WAUPACA, WI How nice to hear from a different part of the country. Sid Miller gave me a brief look at what he went thru to get Oflag 64. From FLATOW, Poland by gondola RR car to Luchenwilde where he met Col. Oakes. They were visited here by the boxer Max Schmeling. (Remember him.) Sid said that Col. Oakes was not too pleased with the presence of Max. Good for Col. Oakes.

I guess Sid was not pleased either particularly after riding in an open gondola car with a busted eardrum. Thanks, Sid for your sharing this info with us. Again Thanks for your contribution to the Postage Fund.

\*\*\*\*\*

FALLS CHURCH, VA Thanks much Al Casner for helping Dick Rossbach to locate, Dr. Jim Godfr. Rather than try to convey the details of your letter to Dick. I made a photo copy and sent it to Dick so that he got the who detailed story. Great job.

Thanks much also for your timely contribution to the Postage Fund.  
For me to have picked you to check out Dr. "Jim" was a God inspired selection as I didn't know of your personal relationship with him. This of course gets us back to the old adage of "What a small world." Thanks much for your efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAN ANTONIO, TX "Chum" "Bud" Williamson who when he writes always makes thing interesting by having some new information to obtain. So here are the questions, and just drop a postcard to "Chum" at the address below rather than send it to me.

- 1. Does anyone know the name of an Italian P.O.W. Camp in North Africa run by the Italians?
  - 2. Has anyone heard of a camp called LATTERINA. If, so where was it located?
- C.A. Williamson  
12653 King Oaks  
San Antonio, TX 78233

\*\*\*\*\*

CINCINNATI, OH. David Mc Connaughy who was no doubt in Oflag 64 quite a long time

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POTPORRI

The votes for annual reunion have been slowly increasing. Any of you fellows who know anyone who we joined up with at Hammelburg who would like to be a member of our group, it has been suggested (and I heartily recommend it) that they be invited to join us. We already have several on our list who seem to like our company.

Jim Bickers offer to print up the Oflag 64 items has been accepted by about 10 persons so far.

See the attached special greeting from Father Brach.

\*\*\*\*\*

BOYLSTON, MA Ormond sent me a very brief note along with a terrific packet of 32 snapshots with names in most cases on the back. Ormond, I don't know how to thank you. My present plans prompt me to try in some way to put these in a folder and take them to Orlando and see if some of the boys can fill in the blank spots of names on the reverse side of the snaps. You can let me know at that time if you want me to retain them. The big job will be to name all the members of the minstrel show. Thanks again. Here is one good reason for each Kriegle to get to Orlando. Just to see if you recognize yourself in the picture.

\*\*\*\*\*

MONTGOMERY, AL What a nice letter I received from Ted Reinhart who recently took a trip to Florida and spent some time with Dick Meskill our General Chairman for our reunion next year in Orlando. Ted and Dick and their respective spouses apparently had a great mini-reunion to gether, and also had a chance to stop in Orlando and gave a very satisfactory report on the Marriott Airport Hotel. The convenience of it to all the "Action" in Orlando particularly impressed him. Now theres a first hand report for you in addition to a brochure which will be forthcoming next year. Thanks, Ted, and also to Dick & Stephanie for the things they have planned so far and what they are planning. Each of you out there really start putting the "bucks" aside to make the "trek" to Orlando, Florida on 10, 11, 12 1986. Ted also had a chance to see Jane Graffagnino in Milton, GA. How nice of Ted to stop and say hello to a great person, whom many of us are sure remember.

\*\*\*\*\*

CORPUS CHRISTIE, TX Len Vaden's latest report indicates that we'll soon have information on pre- or post-reunion travel trip. Thanks Len for this info in my Christmas Card.

\*\*\*\*\*

I sure hope the USPS does a good job on getting this newsletter delivered on a rush basis. Thanks Gen, John Waters for the address of C. Higgenbotham of Bishop, CA and welcome to the group.

Editor  
J.F. Slack

SPECIAL HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM  
FATHER STANLEY BRACH

This is an extended telephone message to each of you on behalf of Father Brach.

His hands are not well enough to allow him to write to each of us, but his heart, his head and his hands are well enough to pray for us.

And that is exactly what he will be doing morning and evening for the next nine days ( a Novena). That means for each of us he is sending out his spiritual greetings and blessings for a marvelous Merry Christmas and an extra special New Year.

This also means in its broadest sense a Very Happy and Joyous Holiday Season.

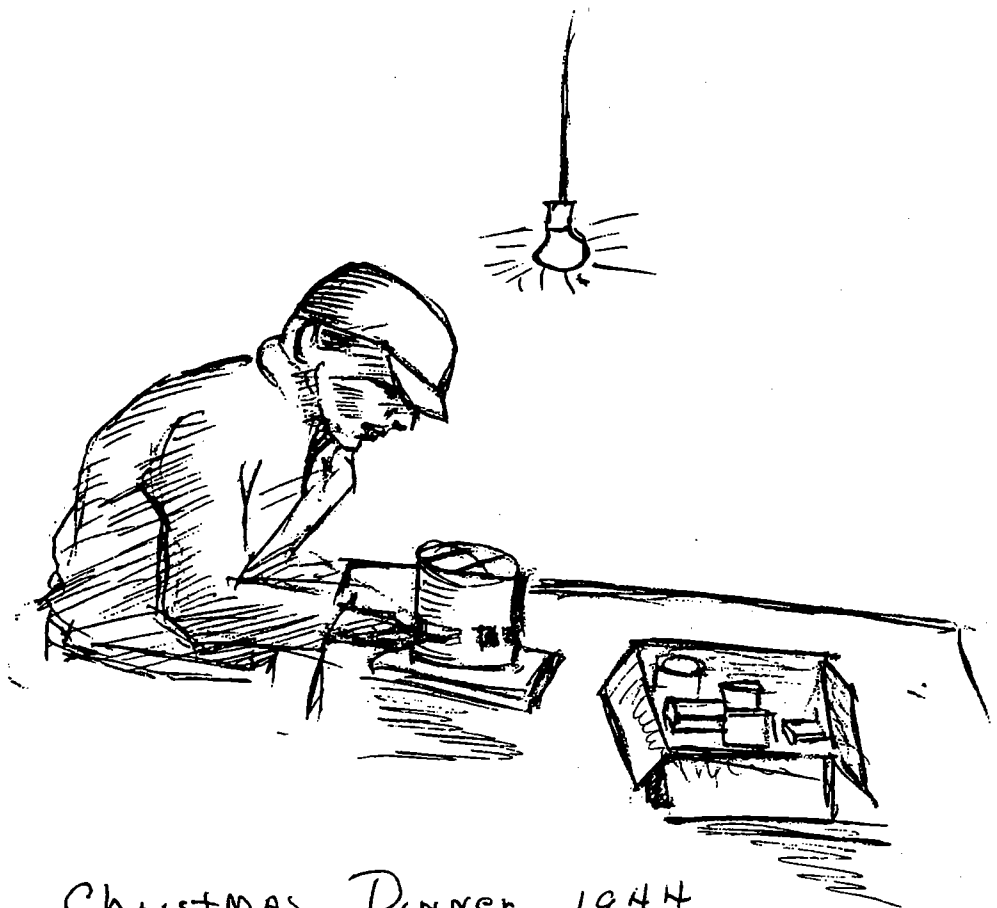
For Father Brach

John F. Slack

Merry Christmas 1985  
Happy New Year 1986

May the Good Lord Help you and  
Guide you through 1986 -

John Reed



CHRISTMAS DINNER 1944