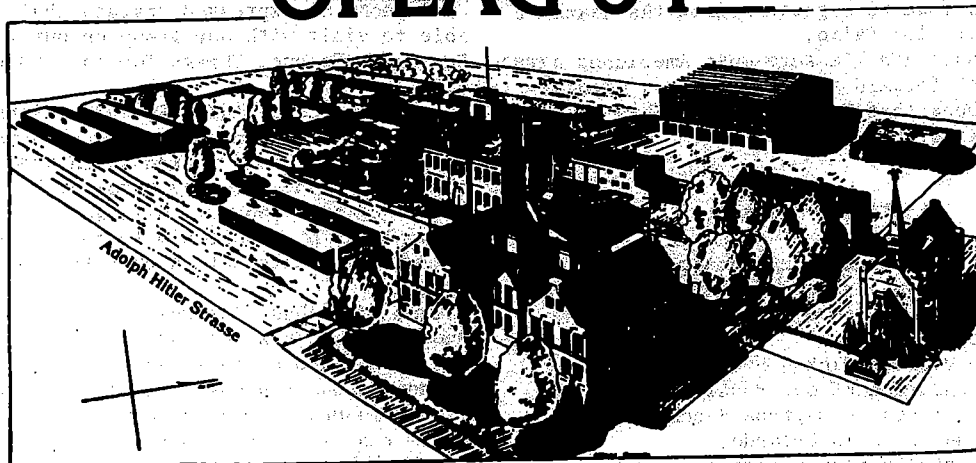


OFLAG 64



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

VOL XXII #1 MARCH 1986 Page 1

GLADWYNE, PA Spring is not faraway, nor is our Reunion In Orlando, Oct 10, 11, 12, 1986. I'm sure its going to be a terrific one and many will be there that we don't see very often. To update all on the Pending questions that have been raised.

1- We have about 15 votes for Annual Reunions and 1 vote to keep it the same, on a bi-annual basis.

2-To James Bickers on the reproduction of the ITEMS. The tally so far is a total of 10 persons who have expressed and interest in having a set of them. Whether you can get them done at a reasonable cost with this small quantity will have to rest in your capable hands.

3- As for the Chapel renovation project as of right now, I do not have the answer from Cardinal Krol but will try to get vit to you before I finish this letter.

NO INFORMATION

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. Nice note from Frank Smith. Wants very much to go on Cruise after our Reunion but would prefer to share a cabin with another person, preferably a male?

Anyone interested Pls. contact Frank at 919-485-1471. This is Frank's phone number at home.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX. What a pleasant surprise to have Len call when in town this month. We had lunch to-gether and then when he had completed his business we spent the afternoon and evening to-gether.

The main topic of conversation was Oflag 64 and the upcoming reunion.

Len also reported that 38 people (19 couples) have signed up so far for the cruise. This is great ! What a Marvelous time we'll have on that cruise. Join the fun, sign up now!! I believe there is still space available. See list of those that have signed up so far.

GLADWYNE, PA Very interesting complimentary article about the Carter Museum in Ft. Worth in the local Philadelphia paper. It noted that the museum has done much to pay tribute to our Great American West especially by having perhaps the most comprehensive Photographs & Negatives of the American West. Approximately 120,000 of these are in the collection, Amon Jr. would have enjoyed this complimentary article.

GLADWYNE, PA I hope both Eugene Gould and C. Higginbotham are receiving the Post Oflag Item by now. I believe we have your correct address and look forward to meeting you in Orlando.

SAN ANTONIO, TX Nice Christmas card from Frank Aten. Didn't say much but it means a lot! "See you in Orlando" Great! Looking forward to it.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN Ed Sager sent a Christmas Card which indicated he had a rough winter but a great finish by saying "See you in Orlando!" How great it is to receive mail like that. Hope to see you, too, Ed.

ENGLAND, AK Now Billy Bingham, the trip to Europe with Poland and Germany included was indeed, another safari to go down in the annals of great adventures. We missed you and your lovely wife. Thanks for the kudos on the write up of the trip. Thanks go to Frank Diggs and Nan Mac Avey for their diligent efforts. Glad you had such a great visit from Bob Oshlo, now come on over to Orlando and visit with all of us. Tain't fur ! We need you to make Orlando a REAL SUCCESS.

CHRISTMAS
 The only thing missing from your card was, "See you in Orlando!"

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN Nice note again from Henry Soderberg. We read with great regret the death of Prime Minister Olof Palme. Most unfortunate and I'm sure most Americans agree. Certainly look forward to seeing you in October in Orlando. Hope that Claire will be able to join you on this trip.

MONTGOMERY, AL A real long letter from Ted Rinehart who had just returned from a trip to Spain & Portugal. I'm sure this was indeed an interesting one.

He also visited Dick & Stephanie Meskill our esteemed chairman of our reunion. Dick as you may recall lives in Daytona Beech but of course our reunion is in Orlando.

Ted has really been visiting around stopping in to chat with Jane Graffagnio in Hamilton, Ga.

Ted also felt that a reunion in Washington D. C. would be a fine spot for one in the future which has been suggested by Wilbur Sharpe. You may get your chance Wilbur Thanks, Ted for a very informative letter.

POTAMAC, MD The enclosed article on Life in a Stalag-USA was sent to me by General Waters and I think you'll agree that they lived a "Life of Reilly" in our "Stalags". Hope each of you enjoy it.

Another letter from General Waters included the name of C. Higginbotham who was in Hammelberg at the time of the "Raid". Hope you can make it to our Orlando "Bash" and be able to see the snaps of Hammelburg as it is to-day taken on our trip there last Spring. Welcome to our group.

CHARLOTTE N. C. Rev. Daniel dropped me a note and was pleased that so many of you obtained his book. I thought it was very interesting. I hope by now that the Post Oflag 64 Item is getting to you by the mails.

East Greenbush, N.Y. Nan & Jim Mac Arevey sent in a short note making a good suggestion. All those who made the trip last Spring to Europe have Breakfast to-gether while at Orlando. Maybe Friday. Just sort of a little get-to-gether of that group. When we get closer to October. I'll check how many of the group will be there and see if I can make pre-arrangements and set up at least a separate table or may be even a separate room. I'll even consult with Frank Diggs as to ice cream flavors. Thanks Nan & Jim for the thought. Also the recipe for Apple Butter which I Love.

GLADWYN PA A college classmate of mine, wrote, George W. Magee, Jr. a newsletter back in the Late 40's & 50's. He loaned me several copies which I proceeded to read. His outfit was a small one, the 954th Mediterranean Allied Photographic Reconnaissance Wing. I found his letters very interesting telling especially of the problems encountered by the group on their return to the States and getting resettled after the War.

LONDON, ENGLAND What a great letter from Ken Finlayson. He expressed regrets that he wasn't able to visit with our group on our visit last Spring to Europe. Thanks for the thought any way Ken.

He also indicated that his group in England is also diminishing in size along with ours. Tony Cipriani wrote to Ken which was a nice thing to do for the busy Mayor of W. V. Ken also wrote about a small get-to-gether that took place in San Antonio late last year at the El Tropicana Hotel at which Father Brach was a Guest.

Father Brach has lost weight in recent years due mainly to his illness. He still manages to carry on in spite of this deficiency.

Father Brach, Ken wants you to know that some of his fondest memories pertain to the great meals that you & he experienced in the Loft of the Hospital.

The meals were not always of regular rations but like "David and the taking of the altar food" the blessings were always there.

Ken was also talked into being in the choir and Father Brach referred to him as his "Limey friend".

How nice it must have been for Ken to visit the town in which he was stationed in England before shipping out to France at the age of 18. He also told me he is retired and settling to a new routine of life.

Thanks Ken for a real informative letter and hope your beginning to enjoy retired life. A letter from Ken indicates that he may be able to join us in Orlando, Hope you can Ken!

WORCHESTER, MA Hi Irv. As I indicated earlier we have about 10 requests for the Oflag Items. I don't know whether that's enough for Jim Bickers to reproduce them or not. maybe he would get more requests at the Reunion.

HIGHLAND PARK, IL Received the regular News-letter from Bob Weinberg of the Stalag Luft III with many items of interest, one of them seems of general interest.

An M. E. Hoppel
300 E. 70th St. 22-L
New York, NY 10021

is interested in obtaining information about the AXIS Sally broadcasts beamed at England & Western Europe during 1943, 1944, 1945. If you remember any of these broadcasts and can place the date & time D R O P card to the above named person with your name address and phone # and he will contact you and talk to you further about it.

GLENMONT, N.Y. Alex Bloom, sure hope your Items are reaching you at your new address.

SILVER SPRING, MD The enclosed copy of a news article will be of interest to all. Hope we're all around to receive one. Thanks Al Moss for the informative news item. Also thanks for the contribution. See you in Orlando!

GLADWYNE, PA The enclosed copy of the article is quite a superb story and one that I feel we can deeply appreciate. If any of you ever have occasion to desire an excellent patriotic speaker contact John A. Dramesi and listen to a real young ho American. He does an outstanding job.

PLANO, TX The American Ex-Prisoners of War are seeking the location of any Ex-POW'S from Stalag 17B, Kerms, Austria. They have located 2400 of them and are trying to locate up to over 2000 more.. Four hundred (400) of those still missing were originally from Pennsylvania. Please Contact: Kenneth L. Jones
1012 Goodwin Dr
Plano, TX 75023
If you know of anyone that was in this camp.

WEST HYANNIS PORT, MA Long Long time no hear from Ken Goddard, but it was real good, him to not only write but to send me a contribution. Did you all know that he repairs clocks. Antique Clocks Repair & Restoration. Ken would loved to have had you fix ours but felt that packing & shipping was a little risky. It dates back to 1801. You would have enjoyed it too. Thanks much for the contribution to the Postage Fund.

Masking Ridge, NJ What a nice surprise to hear from Harold Craft. Thanks much for your New Years resolution to include a contribution in a note to me. Boy, sure sorry your present plans call for missing Orlando. Pls. don't hesitate to come even without reservations if you get a last minute change in plans. We'll find some way to put you up even if it means putting an upper deck on the bed. Lets keep the resolution for '87 or 88. We don't know where we'll be as yet but sure hope you can make it.

BANGOR, ME Sure nice also to hear from Milt Mellison. He included a contribution to the Postage Fund and also inquired about a set of Oflag 64 Items that Jim Bickers has offered to make if enough people show an interest. We'll let you know if we go ahead with this project. Glad to hear Maine is following the path of many other states in issuing P.O.W. car license plates. The V. A., as a result of an Act passed by Congress, expanded its services to All P.O.W.'s including the items you mentioned in your letter. The next move anticipated is a possible P.O.W. medal (see enclosed newspaper item sent in by M. Moss. George Juskalian was appointed to the P.O.W. Advisory Board of the V.A.

COLOMBUS, GA Great letter from George Britto who is located near Ft. Benning GA. On behalf of Oflag 64, He attended the special re-dedication ceremonies of a monument to P.O.W.'s (See photos enclosed)
The incscription reads as follows:
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE WHILE PRISONERS OF WAR IN WORLD WAR II

George writes that the ceremony was fine but the rain spoiled the outside show, The principle speaker was Dr. Brooks Kleber, (who we miss at our reunions) Deputy Historian of the U. S. Army. Hon Judge Jame W. Wood, was also present at the affair along with others, W W II POW's as well as some from Vietnam. Col. George Britto wants to know if you remember him, George Juskalian. He reported inthe 25th Combat Team at Ft. Benning and he saw George's 29th Div. patch and talked about Col "Pop" Goode with whom George Britto was captured. Thanks much for a good report & the pictures.

GLENWOOD IA Kenneth Reed dropped me a short note including a nice contribution as well as sending me the new name of Max Drukman of Brookline Ma. Max, you'll have to look up Irv Yarock of Worchester and may be you two can have a nice mini-reunion, and Ken Goddard is not far away. Ken, hope you were able to see your son in D.C. and are winning the battle with the Big "C". Maybe in the Fallyou could feel up to getting to Orlando. You won't regret it.

GLENMONT, N. Y. Well I've already referred to Alex Bloom's change of address and then after he moved he sent me a long letter with lot's of info. He was only in Camp from 1/6-1/20 1945 and then made the "March" to Moosburg. He also sent me two of his favorite cartoons which I'm reproducing elsewhere. He also has Red Cross POW Bulletins of various dates which I would appreciate seeing, Alex to add to the Oflag 64 Archives. I Just received a very fine Black & White photo of "Pop" Goode. You were right on the rest at Siggelkow and then the entrainment in Parham toHammelburg. Your notes are very good. Father Brach will appreciate knowing that his Holiday was welcomed by you. Hope you enjoyed your meal on the Klim-Tin "Cooker" and am looking forward to seeing you again in Orlando.

CLINTON, MS Had a nice order from Carey Ashcraft for some of the articles. Thanks also for the contribution to the Postage Fund. Sure hope you can get to Orlando.

BISHOP, CA It is certainly nice to add a new name to the list and then receive a letter from the person. "Higgie" Higgenbotham is that person and he sent not only one but two letters. Both contained beautiful photographs of Higgie working on his hobbie, making violins. Our principle violinist to the best of my knowledge is Joe Friedman of Fairlawn, N.J. if you need a new one here's your chance. Higgie wrote me that he has been making violins since he was 12 years old. He wrote his first letter to me on the anniversary date of his capture at BASTOGNE. I do not have Abe Baum's address but he could be located by writing to the publisher whose address is G. Putnam ← Sons
Madison Ave
New York, NY 10016

Thanks Much for the contribution to the Postage Fund. Glad you'll be able to make Orlando and am sure you will not regret it.

OLEAN, N.Y. What a nice idea Van Munson had, after he read "Sage" He ordered six more copies one for each of his grown children. I agree, I thought Jerry's book described P.O.W. life very accurately. Why not make it to Orlando, Van? Thanks for the contribution.

POTAMAC, MD Two more letters from General Waters, one included an article on the re-establishing of a Museum at Fort Monroe by Colonel Goode while Deputy Post Commander. I will make copies of this article for all. It also contains a good picture of the Colonel. General Waters also wrote that Billy Bingham had called him, ~~One thing~~ about Billy he always make phone calls but stays away from the reunions. Come on Billy join us, and you'll never miss another one. Sure look forward to both Anne, his charming wife and the General being in Orlando.

Gulf Breeze, FL Welcome to "Doc" Robert P. Fleege who has now retired. He escaped at the time of the "Raid" at Hammelburg and actually got back the 3rd Div line along with a Sergeant Smith and a L.T. McClalion. In a letter to me he also asked about a Lt. Dick Smoley from California. Anybody know him? If you do let Robert know. See his address elsewhere. Any notes or names addresses you have suggest you take time out some day and hook yourself to the phone. It will surprise you how ~~many~~ persons out of the group you can locate! Sure looking forward to meeting you in Orlando. Details at a later date.

Maumee, OH Just a change of address Form from Harvey Ford. Hope you are enjoying your new "Digs" Thanks for the notification

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. Most of you have all heard about the shortest verse in the Bible. I now have received the shortest note of all, but what a nice one. It has two sentences, 'Hope you have a great '86 "Thanks for all the news from the Oflag gang. How nice, Newt Cole. This type of thing keeps me going. Sure hope to see you in Orlando.

OMAHA, NE How thoughtful of Roy & Leilabeth Thrie to send me a copy of their Annual Christmas Family newsletter. Roy had some physical problems during the year but has recuperated quite well from all of them. Great! Keep it up Roy.

Glad you have had communication with Gotfried Dietz. I have several of his books. I haven't heard from Craig Campbell either, but I still remember the innumerable bridge games, I played in the "Dining Room" with him, Bill Cory and Bob Bonomi. Had no idea I played with such an expert as Bononi.

Glad to hear we'll see Brad and Jean at Orlando. Hope he still has his "Khaki Cap" Sure nice to hear from you.

ATHENS, GA Looks as if I better get a better long distance radio, then I can tune in to this town more often and see how Howard "Boomer" Holder is doing.

Howard won't be with us at the reunion but he and his lovely wife (according to my sources) are going to join us for the cruise, after the reunion. If any of you are driving thru or near Athens, Boomer says the telephone number is 404-549-1340. I'm planning to keep the "Items" coming but hope you can retire before 1997 and enjoy what you have worked for. Look forward to seeing you on the cruise. Thanks much for the very nice contribution.

ROCK ISLAND, IL A very fine brief letter from that great member of the Scottish Clan, of The Sutherlands.

"Jack" Sutherland. He writes that he really appreciated our Oflag 64 organization as he arrived in late 1944. (Even if he didn't get to know many of us some of the late arrivals are learning to know us now as they attend the reunions and join us with bent arms of beer, wine, liquor, coffee, tea, milk or soft drinks and in the last 2 years of the 1st three and more of the latter.

I will not suggest which is better for us but that is up to the individual taste. Ed.) The book "Sage" was much appreciated by "Jack" and may be Jerry would write a sequel and elaborate on his Russian & Polish experiences which I felt he glossed over. Maybe the State Dept. Wouldn't appreciate it. Jerry, Jack feels the mad mad world of Lubin deserves more detailed treatment. Thanks much for your nice letter and contribution.

COLUMBIA, SC How nice to get correspondence again from this town.

The late Colonel Schafer occasionally dropped me a letter from here and now William Harrell has renewed the practice. Thanks Bill. Bill writes that he came to Oflag 64 in Sept. of '44 and then went to the Hospital at Wolstyn, where he stayed until the Russians came through. From there on he had quite an experience. I'm sure many of you will enjoy the new "Saga" at Orlando. Pjan to meet Bill Harrell and ask him about his story. I hope I'm there when he tells it. Thanks for your contribution to the Postage Fund. Bill See you in Orlando.

VENANGO, PA Welcome to Robert-"Bob" Kramer. Now we have 2 Kramers only one is spelt with a "C" and the current one is a "K". Hope we can entice you to our Reunion in Orlando. Details in a later issue. Both are in Western, PA. Chestnut Hill, MA Just in case I missed welcoming you to our group Howard "Harvie" List on a previous occasion, let it be now. Did you serve with the Late Charles Dunn in the 45th Div? Hope you can make Orlando, Oct 10..11. 12, 1986!

SEBRING, FL Welcome another new member to our mailing list. Roderick Peebles. You join several others who abide in the warm state of Florida. See you in Orlando! Don't miss it!

PROVIDENCE R.I. This time we not only welcome a new state. This is great and hope you also can make it to Orlando & the Cruise. See you in Orlando.

VIENNA, VA All of the above additions may be credited to George Juskalian who very diligently send me the listings of the American Ex-POW Assoc..
Thanks much again George, See you in Orlando!

GLADWYNE, PA Goof! Goof! Goof! On one of my busy forgetful days. I picked up the mail in my Van and dropped it in the mailbox at the Main Post Office in Philadelphia, Inadvertently it also included a bank book and deposit slips with checks for the Postage Fund. Thus the reason for many of you receiving checks mailed to you by the US Postal Service. Thanks to those of you who have returned them to me. They are being deposited and I am after the Post office to return the Bank Book and other Checks,
Sorry to put you to so much trouble, The money will be added to the Postage fund that doesn't show up.
Your "Goof" Editor
John Slack

WOOLRICH, PA Mrs. Thomas recently advised me that Russell had passed away on September 26, 1985. We were sorry to learn of this and sent our condolences on behalf of all of you. He had suffered over the years as a result of injuries sustained during questioning as a POW:

POTPOURRI, GLADWYNE The enclosed program of our Orlando Bash is a Preliminary one and is most certainly subject to changes. Make sure when you register you receive an up-to-date program so that you don't miss out on all the festivities.
Anytime more than one Obituary appears, it is because each will probably contain different information that may be of interest to all of us I'm ready to start on the next Newsletter already so don't throw your reading glasses away, but polish them and be ready for the mail person.
Good health and keep 'em rolling till we all get to Orlando.
OCTOBER 10, 11, 12, 1986

Reservation Forms in next mailing.
Please remember to send me a change of address form when you move.
Without the new address we may lose track of you. DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

(OVER)

Change of address

Alex B. Bloom
171 C. Hague Blvd
Glenmont, NY 12077

Joseph F. Barrett, Jr.
22 Woodbine Ave
Maple Shade, NJ 08052

Harvey S. Ford
303 E. John
P.O. Box 397
Maumee, OH 43537

Duane Johnson
Rt #1 Box 253
Red Oak, IA 51566

NEED NEW ADDRESS

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

Joseph R. Green
2406 S. Kapoo
Springfield, MI 65804

James M. Gillersie
Willmatic, CT 06226

B. G John W. Dobson
51 Brain 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
3703 N. Oakley Ave
Chicago, IL

Lt. Harvey A. Todd
"Pop" Phill Foster, Penn State

Thomas Rush
Red Wiegand

Ernest M. Gruenberg, M.D.
722 W. 168th St
New York, NY 10032

NEED NEW ADDRESS (CONTINUED)

Sy Blum
100 Court St
Plymouth, MA 02360

Thomas Mitchell
101 Magnolia Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540

NEW ADDITIONS

Robert 'Bob' Keeler
1515 Bayshore Blvd
Dunedin, FL 33528

Charles "Chuck" Mc Elligott
102 Washington Hwy.
Snyder, N.Y. 14226

C. Higgenbotham
3205 W. Nine St
Bishop, CA 93514

Max Drukman
1470 Beacon St
Brookline, MA 02146

Robert P. Fleege, D.D.S.
206 Joachim Dr
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Robert 'Bob' Kramer
R D 1 Old Plane Rd
Venango, PA 16440

Howard Howie Litsky
161 Pond Brook Rd
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Roderick Peeples
1431 Hotiyee Ave
Sebring, FL 33870

YANK STALAGS



German soldiers rest in a section of the prison camp at Camp Polk, La., in 1943. The room was for ill prisoners who had been placed on 24 hours' bed rest. Polk was just one of 155 base camps and 511 satellite facilities that housed POWs in the states.

By Capt. Brian Zeringue

1943—AMERICA had adjusted its lifestyle to support the war effort. Americans were producing war goods at a record pace. Farm workers had moved to the city to get jobs in war industries. Ration books became the housewife's bible. It became a daily ritual for Army families to chart the war's progress. Every advertisement reminded Americans to "Buy War Bonds." In some way, all Americans were affected.

World War II also brought enemy prisoners of war to U.S. soil. For many Americans, having POWs in their backyards was their first contact with the military reality of the war.

A year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States held only 431 enemy prisoners. But by the spring of 1943, Allied victories against Gen. Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps sent the number of incoming prisoners soaring into the thousands. Eventually, the number held in the United States would reach nearly half a million — 371,683 of them German.

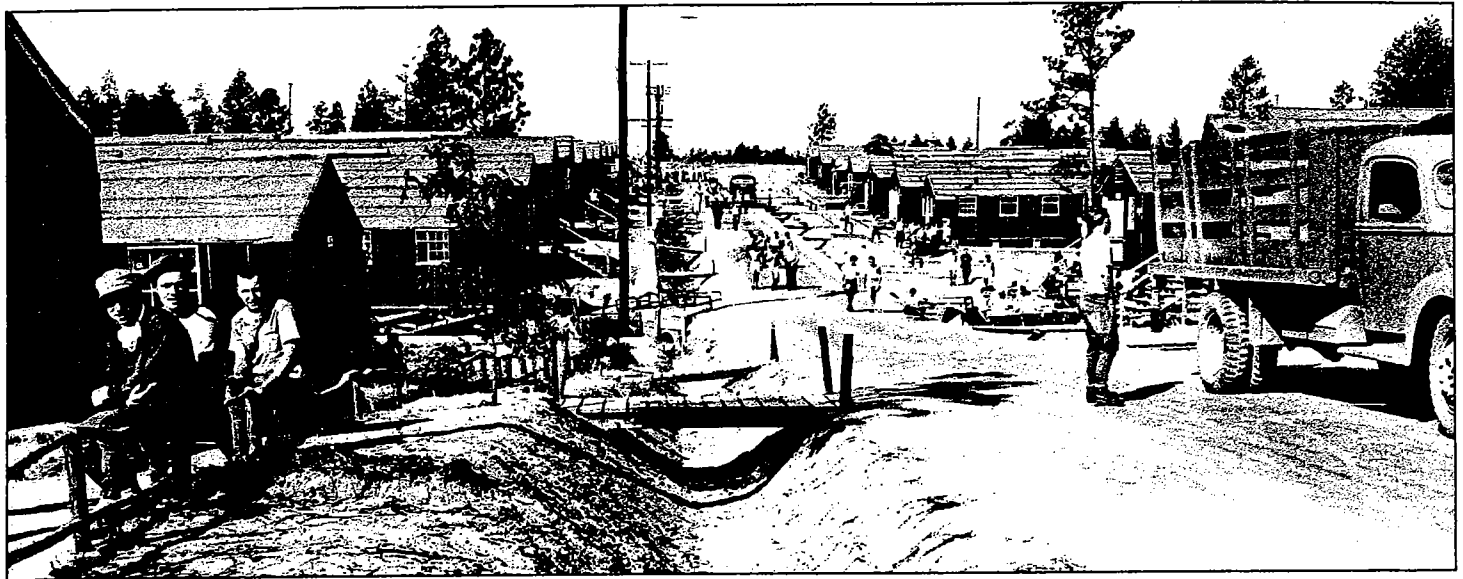
The United States had never taken so many foreign prisoners, much

less kept them within its own borders during wartime. Few guidelines existed. The Army's manuals and reports, written after World War I, were based on its experience of holding POWs overseas and were of little value at home. The Army used guidelines set forth by the Geneva Convention of 1929 — rules untested in war.

Camp life for the German prisoners resembled an ordinary German army training facility. The Army and the American public handled the POWs even-handedly in the hope that American prisoners in German hands would receive the same treatment.

While most of America's 155 base camps and 511 branch facilities were located in the South and Southwest, all but five states had at least one POW camp. Some were attached to military bases, while others were unused fairgrounds or abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps sites.

All camps were away from key industrial and urban centers and were no closer than 150 miles to the nearest international border or seaport. The ideal base camp was located on 350 acres, five miles from a railroad and more than 500 feet from any important



Above, two prisoners harvest Louisiana rice in November 1943. • Top, a typical street in the Camp Polk, La., prison camp. POWs built many of their own camp improvements.

roads. New camps were built according to a standard layout designed to house 2,000 to 4,000 prisoners. Each camp included a hospital, chapel, mess halls, workshops, exchanges, infirmaries, administrative buildings, recreation halls and even laundry and shower facilities with hot and cold running water. The only difference between these camps and the normal U.S. Army training centers were the watch towers with searchlights and the double chain-link fences — 10 feet high and 8 feet apart.

The Army kept communities informed about the arrival of prisoners and announced the location of each POW camp several months in advance. When the first trainloads of German POWs arrived, entire towns would turn out at the station to investigate. Yet the arrival of a trainload of captives at a smaller camp would become a minor event compared to the thousands that began to appear at some of the country's larger POW camps. For example, in August 1943, special POW trains rolled into Crossville, Tenn., population 2,000, and 15,000 prisoners stepped off in one load.

"Interestingly, nearly all communities adjusted quickly to the camps in their midst," said Dr. Arnold Kramer, a professor of German history at Texas A & M University and POW chronicler. "In fact, despite the initial shock, the majority of townspeople were surprisingly optimistic about their new neighbors.

"They had already had several months to get accustomed to the idea of having POWs nearby. Furthermore, it was clear the government was leaving little chance for any mass escapes by providing specially trained military police to secure the camps.

"Perhaps the most basic explanation for this unexpectedly optimistic acceptance of the thousands of nearby prisoners was the sheer novelty of the situation. How often, after all, had something like this occurred in these small communities?"

However, a small number of citizens in almost every community, especially those with husbands, sons and close relatives fighting overseas, were outraged at the thought of having Nazis in their midst. There was a feeling that the camps were too good for the prisoners. Townspeople often referred to the nearby POW camp as "the Fritz Ritz."

The Army's prisoner of war division received hundreds of letters every week. "About half echo the thoughts of one man who advised: 'Put them in Death Valley, chuck in a side of beef and let them starve to death,'" confided Col. Francis E. Howard, then POW division director, to a reporter from *Collier's* magazine.

"It was a feeling that was certainly understandable in light of the war hysteria, the weekly casualty reports in the newspapers and the dreaded arrival of the War Department telegram," said Kramer. "But, as the war progressed, even this mi-

nority came to realize, if not appreciate, the logic behind the POW program.

"Those still anxious were soothed by the government's continual assurance that the POWs would be used as laborers in local businesses and on nearby farms. Even the small businessmen realized the advantages of steady purchases by the prison guards and high-ranking prisoners."

By the time the first German POWs had arrived, the domestic labor market was already feeling the pinch of the war effort. The war demanded increased production, while the military needed all the able-bodied men to fight. A critical labor shortage resulted.

The federal government recruited foreign workers from Mexico, Jamaica and Bahamas to supplement the dwindling farm labor, but they were few compared to the number needed. In March 1943 the government was forced to order a draft exemption for essential farm and factory workers. This was the same time that the first trainloads of German POWs arrived.

"The answer suddenly became clear: Fill the dwindling industrial and farm labor ranks with incoming prisoners of war," said Kramer. "The Geneva Convention of 1929 specified that the prisoners could indeed be required to work for the benefit of their captors. In fact, American prisoners in German and Italian POW camps had already been put to work to fill similar gaps in their captors' diminishing labor forces."

Military installations had the first claim to prisoner labor. Military-related POW labor freed American soldiers for service overseas. German prisoners filled a wide variety of menial and clerical jobs within their own compounds and on military installations. By mid-1944 German POWs had moved into practically every type of

job found on military reservations.

These POWs received the maximum rate of 80 cents a day in addition to the 10 cents each prisoner received for purchasing personal items such as toothpaste, razor blades and tobacco.

Meanwhile, the shortage of civilian workers, especially in farming, was becoming critical. The prisoner work program was expanded to fill the gap.

Although civilian-related jobs included meat packing, lumber work and quarrying, POWs were used primarily to plant and harvest crops. From the end of 1943 to early 1946, POWs worked on every major agricultural crop in nearly every state.

To draw on the available POW labor force, potential employers submitted requests to the local office of the War Manpower Commission. Employers entered into three-month contracts for POW labor after agreeing that the prisoners' rights would be respected and that wages and working conditions would be equal to that of local free-market labor.

The minimum daily wage was still 80 cents, but a hard-working prisoner would earn as much as \$1.50 a day under an incentive program. POWs were paid in coupons which they could redeem at the camp exchange.

Officer prisoners were not required to work but received salaries anyway. Their monthly pay was \$20 for lieutenants, \$30 for captains and \$40 for majors through generals.

In paid work on military installations alone, the POWs performed 91 million man-days of labor through 1945. During 1944 alone, the War Department estimated prisoner labor was worth about \$70 million.

POW protests and work halts occurred, but rarely when compared to the total number of prisoners. The majority of POW camps never experienced so much as a ripple of organized opposition. When difficulties did occur, the Army responded swiftly with firm discipline.

The daily schedules in prison camps across the country were nearly identical and much like those of an American soldier during peacetime — reveille at 5:30, work by 7:30, dinner at

6, with the remainder of the evening free.

Camp life followed a well-ordered pattern. Discipline within the camp was maintained by the prisoners themselves. Sergeants, as in any army, controlled the enlisted men and were responsible to the officers. Enlisted prisoners were required by the Geneva Convention to salute all American officers. German officers had to salute American officers of equal or higher rank.

"The camp social structure duplicated the military hierarchy of the German army," said Krammer. "German officers lived in their own compounds within the base camps.

"Officers exercised the same authority they had before capture, a privilege guaranteed by the Geneva Convention. And, rank permitting, they were provided with a valet or aide-de-camp from among the POW enlisted men."

Although it was prison and often trying on the human spirit, life in the POW camp wasn't all work and no play. There was plenty to keep the men oc-

cupied besides the work programs. The more popular leisure activities ranged from sports and handicrafts to theater, music and education.

Athletics were taken seriously at the larger camps. Championships, held for the more popular sports like soccer



Above, German POWs were provided with craft shops. The wood crafters at Camp Polk, La., built theater props. • Top, specially trained MPs guarded the stateside POW camps. Despite security precautions, more than 2,000 POWs escaped — nearly all were recaptured within hours.

and volleyball, got so exciting that even tower guards participated as cheerleaders. Many POWs went on to athletic careers in Germany after their release.

Education was the most far-reaching program. By the end of 1943, every large camp was offering courses in English, literature, shorthand, commerce, chemistry, physics and mathematics. After the war, the German Ministry of Education offered full high school and university credits for courses taken by POWs. Some POWs at camps near American universities were allowed to take extension courses. German prisoners studied at 103 different universities and technical colleges.

For the most part, the prisoners seemed content with their rural American surroundings:

"I have never, as a soldier, been as well off as I am here," wrote Josef Sworsky from the POW camp in Trinidad, Colo., in a 1943 letter he sent home through Swiss intermediaries. "We are being treated very decently — much better than we were by our own officers. I write you this quite openly because it is the truth and I don't want you to get a false impression of the Americans."

"What a world of difference between these quarters and those inadequate facilities in Africa," related Reinhold Pabel in a 1955 book about his wartime experiences and his stay in the Camp Grant, Ill., POW camp. "Our shelters were regular army barracks, clean and fairly roomy, . . . a PX, well-stocked with merchandise. When we gathered in the mess hall for our first dinner at camp, we at first suspected that the Yanks wanted to make fun of us. Such a menu: soup, vegetables, meat, milk, fish, grapes, coffee and ice cream. Never before in our military career had we been served a meal like that." Pabel escaped from custody in September 1945 before he could be repatriated home — the FBI arrested him in Chicago in 1953.

"The wooden barracks are all equipped with electric lights and individual cots with quilts," POW Hans Jahnichen wrote about Camp Trinidad. "The washroom and showers may be used at any hour. The food is excellent

and plentiful. Particular attention is given to the state of our health. . . . After everything we went through, it is just like a 'rest cure' to be here."

But a small number of hardened Nazis misinterpreted the Army's humanitarianism as weakness. One prisoner from the Afrika Korps boasted that the Americans should congratulate themselves for giving the best food and best-built barracks to the Germans. "Because when Germany wins the war, this will make at least one good point in your favor," he said.

Even with efforts to make camp life tolerable and to maintain tight security, there were escapes. More than 2,000 German prisoners slipped away and headed for the international borders or ports with ships from neutral nations. Many used phony papers or stolen uniforms and escaped by way of hidden doors or tunnels.

"Like their American counterparts in Nazi POW camps, German prisoners preparing to escape were governed by an internal 'escape committee,'" Krammer said. "This powerful committee had to approve all plans and study all preparations made by the prisoners." The committee made sure the men had the proper supplies, information, money and other items before being allowed to leave.

One of the more ludicrous escape attempts related by Krammer involved two POWs hitchhiking in south Texas:

"We're Boy Scouts,' the prisoners told the driver of a stopped truck. 'We're going to an international convention in Mexico.' The driver, suspicious of the accents and hairy, muscle-knotted legs extending from the shorts, halted at the nearest town and turned the brawny 'Scouts' over to the authorities."

In most cases, escaped prisoners were caught and returned to military control within 24 hours. By the time the last German POW in custody was returned home at the end of the war, only six escapees remained at large (see related story on Page 35).

July 23, 1946, marked the official end to the internment of German POWs. They were sent home with food rations, train tickets and some German money. Many of the camps were torn



down and the land returned to its owners.

"There is little question that America's first prisoner of war experience was a success," Krammer said. "The POW program had not only successfully fed, clothed, housed, entertained and, in many cases, re-educated hundreds of thousands of men in its care, it had also affected events far beyond its immediate responsibility.

"America's severe labor shortage had been partially alleviated by prisoner labor, and the use of prisoners on non-strategic military tasks freed substantial numbers of American troops for shipment overseas. More significantly, the War Department's even-handed and humane treatment of enemy captives may even have shortened the war in Europe by making the prospect of surrender less painful to the resisting German Wehrmacht."

A survey of 20,000 German prisoners being sent back in 1946 indicated that 75 percent left America with an appreciation of and a friendly attitude toward their captors. Thousands felt good enough to return — as about 5,000 former German POWs have.

And, over the years, hundreds of former prisoners have returned to their old camps sites for reunions with fellow prisoners and guards — many to VIP treatment from local dignitaries.

"It was during one of these re-



Top, German prisoners rehearse a play in their theater at Camp Polk, La., in 1943. • Above, a German chaplain prepares his Sunday church service at Polk.

unions, this one in Texas, with a former POW named Wilhelm Sauerbrei, that the experience of the prisoners was best summarized," Krammer said. "While driving up from Houston in a car full of community dignitaries and reporters, the former Afrika Korps corporal regaled the occupants with stories and recollections about his camp days:

"'You must have had it pretty easy,' a Houston reporter commented.

"'I'll tell you, pal,' Sauerbrei said confidently, 'if there is ever another war, get on the side that America isn't, then get captured by the Americans — you'll have it made.'" □



By Bobbi Miller

Staff Writer

Forty years after the death of Lt. Col. Allen Thayer of Columbus, Fort Benning rededicated the monument built to honor him and other prisoners of World War II.

Thayer's two surviving sons and about a dozen graying former prisoners of war attended the Thursday morning ceremony at the National Infantry Museum. Later they ducked beneath umbrellas to photograph the white marble obelisk in the rain.

Columbus gave the monument to Fort Benning last year when improvements at the intersection of Fort Benning and Cusseta roads destroyed the median where the monument was erected just after World War II. Civic groups and Columbus restaurateur Firm Roberts — mourning his son-in-law, Thayer, who died in 1945 in captivity in the Philippines — started the monument. In the next three decades, the graceful landmark became the site of many cere-

monies and wreath-layings.

Now the monument faces Lumpkin Road from a tree-encircled field near Greene Hall on Main Post.

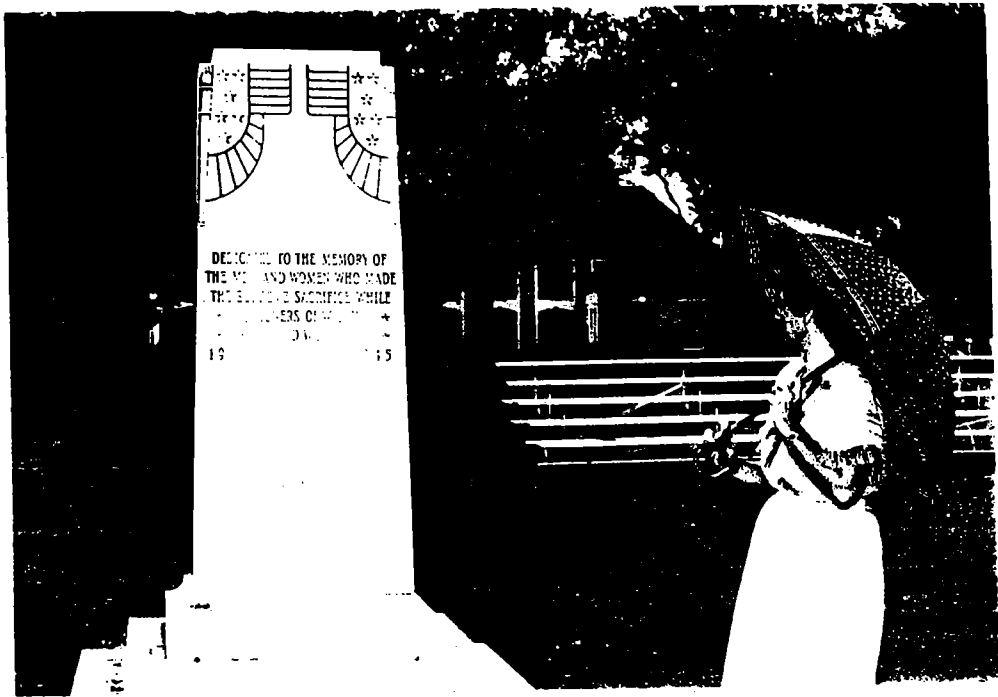
Thayer's sons, John Thayer, 45, of Phenix City and Maj. Allen Thayer, 49, of Atlanta said the monument is in its "rightful" place at Fort Benning, the home of the infantry. The father they barely got to know was an infantryman, captured during the infamous fall of Corregidor in 1942.

The post is pleased with the acquisition because the monument is one of only a few in the country dedicated to prisoners of war, said National Infantry Museum Curator Richard Grube.

"Prisoners of war have not always been remembered," said the guest speaker at the ceremony, Brooks E. Kleber. Himself a former POW, Kleber is assistant chief of military history at the U.S. Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.

Thousands of men have been captured in every American war,

he said. But "the American public was never greatly moved or informed" about POWs until television cameras captured the plight of prisoners of the Vietnam War, Kleber said.



People Attend Ceremony Near Greene Hall on Main Post



Benning Rededicates Monument Honoring POWs

Army Institute of Heraldry Seeking Designs for Prisoner of War Medal

By PAT DALTON
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The Army's Institute of Heraldry in Alexandria, Va., soon will be accepting designs for a prisoner of war medal and as many as 140,000 former POWs or their next of kin could be eligible for it.

The medal was authorized in an amendment to the fiscal 1986 Authorization Act, sponsored by Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., who served with the Army in World War II.

"Few members of our armed forces have suffered as greatly, both physically and mentally, as those who have been taken prisoner by the enemy in time of war," Roth said. "The Prisoner of War

Medal, like other military badges, will identify the wearer as having given special service to his country."

The amendment says the medal can be awarded to any armed forces member taken prisoner and held captive after April 5, 1917, making POWs in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War eligible. It also says the medal may be awarded posthumously and to a POW's representative, usually the next of kin.

Service secretaries will have authority to issue the medal "to any person who was taken prisoner or held captive while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign

force; or while serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party."

The person's conduct during the period of captivity must have been honorable.

The POW medals will be given precedence "immediately following decorations awarded for individual heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service, and before any other service medal, campaign medal or service ribbon authorized to be displayed."

Officials said the Institute of Heraldry will solicit POW Medal designs from the armed services and accredited veterans' organizations. The deadline for selecting a design is May 30, officials said.

March 1986

OBITUARIES

John A. Glendinning, Actor, State Official

Bellerose — John A. Glendinning, 64, a former actor, public relations executive and New York State official, died Sunday of cancer at Winthrop-University Hospital, Mineola.

As a first lieutenant during World War II, Mr. Glendinning was held as a prisoner of war by the Germans for 2½ years after his tank destroyer battalion was overrun in Tunisia at the battle of Kasserine Pass.

Upon his return to the United States at the end of the war, Mr. Glendinning worked for five years as an actor, appearing in hundreds of productions on Broadway, television and in movies.

He appeared in the television show "I Remember Mama", and his Broadway credits included "Julius Caesar" with Basil Rathbone and "Twentieth Century" with Gloria Swanson and Jose Ferrer.

Mr. Glendinning served as director of public affairs for Carrier Corporation for four years, until his retirement in 1982. Prior to that, he served New York State in a variety of posts, including secretary of the state insurance fund, deputy industrial commissioner, and execu-

tive assistant to the superintendent of banks.

In 1963, as executive assistant to the chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Glendinning traveled to England to help prepare a report on the pros and cons of off-track betting in that country. The study presented some of the preliminary findings in New York State's years-long controversy over legalizing such wagering.

In the early '70s, Mr. Glendinning was finance director for the New York State Republican committee. Prior to that, he served as regional manager for government relations with the Sperry and Hutchinson Co.

Surviving are his wife, Lorraine; two sons, Peter of East Lansing, Mich. and David of Washington, D.C.; two daughters, Barbara of Boca Raton, Fla., and Victoria of Manhattan; a brother, Richard of Sarasota, Fla.; a sister, Elizabeth of New Canaan, Conn.; and two grandchildren.

Memorial service, 1 p.m. Saturday, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bellerose.

NY Times 3/5/86

JOHN A. GLENDINNING

John A. Glendinning, a former New York State Deputy Commissioner of Labor and former finance director of the State Republican Committee, died of cancer Sunday at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, L.I. He was 64 years old and lived in Bellerose, L.I.

He served as Deputy Commissioner of Labor from 1970 to 1971 and as finance director of the Republican committee from 1969 to 1971. In 1972, he was appointed secretary of the New York State Insurance Fund, a position he held until 1978, when he joined the Carrier Corporation as director of public affairs. He retired in 1982.

Mr. Glendinning, who was born in Elizabeth, N.J., was a first lieutenant in the Army in World War II. After the war, he worked several years as an actor in movies, on television and on Broadway.

He is survived by his wife, the former Lorraine Pressler; two daughters, Victoria, of Manhattan, and Barbara Lundy of Boca Raton, Fla.; two sons, Peter, of East Lansing, Mich., and David, of Washington; a sister, Elizabeth, of New Canaan, Conn.; a brother, Richard, of Sarasota, Fla., and two grandchildren.

John A. Glendinning, 64; Former Carrier Employee

Memorial services for former Syracuse resident John A. Glendinning, 64, who died Sunday in Bel-

lerose Village, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bellerose Village.

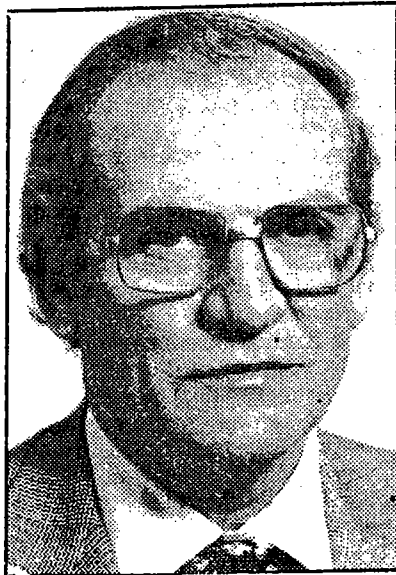
There will be no calling hours.

Mr. Glendinning was a native of Elizabeth, N.J. He was director of public affairs for Carrier Corp. in Syracuse from 1978 to 1982.

Mr. Glendinning was formerly executive assistant to the chairman of the New York Assembly's Ways and Means Committee, executive assistant to the New York superintendent of banks, finance director of the New York State Republican Committee, deputy industrial commissioner for the State of New York and secretary of the New York State Insurance Fund.

Surviving are his wife, Lorraine; two daughters, Barbara Lundy and Victoria Glendinning; two sons, Peter A. and David R.; a sister, Elizabeth; a brother, Richard; and several grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to St. Thomas Episcopal Church.



MR. GLENDINNING
New Jersey Native

Monday, March 3, 1986

April 12, 1986

Dear Mr. Slack,

While going over some of my father's (John A. Gardinier) effects, I came upon a Miami News article about the 1982 Oflag 64 get-together which named you as the official chronicler of events concerning your fellow P.O.W.s. It is with great regret that I must inform you of my father's passing on March 2d. I have enclosed a copy of one of the obituaries for your information.

My dad was most proud of his association with all the men of Oflag 64 and though he was reluctant to talk about that hard and very personal time of his life, I could tell how special was

the bond he felt with each of you. I remember how he talked of the plays he staged at the camp and of how they provided some distraction from the condition of imprisonment.

I also recall his organizing a fund-raiser for Mr. Finer who was running for office in Pennsylvania - I believe.

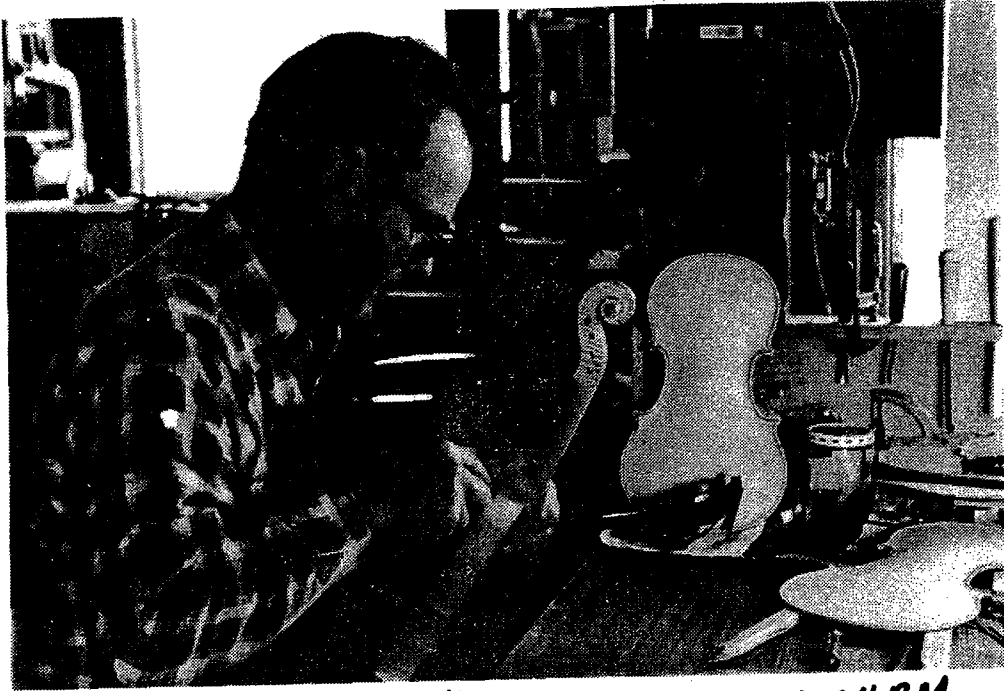
Last year, Christmas '84, he and I were talking about his experience at Oflag 64 and he wondered aloud why P.O.W.s were not recognized for their special character of service; that of serving as a front-line soldier who is captured and left to continue that service while in the hands of the enemy. I agreed and took that concern to my boss, Senator Bill Roth of Delaware. As a result, Senator Roth introduced legislation to create a P.O.W. medal, which was passed as part of the Defense Authorization Bill and signed by President Reagan

on November 8, 1985. That medal,
when available later this year to
all former P.O.W.'s who served
honorably as prisoners or their
survivors, will be just one of

John Spindling's legacies. Most
important, however, is that which
he left in his family and all who
knew him - it is the strength of
character and faith in God which
got him through those 2 1/2 years
in Poland, along with his brother-
in-law.

Sincerely,

David Spindling



"HIGGIE" HIGGENBOTHAM
AND HIS HOBBY

Two of my favorite cartoons.
ALEX BLOOM

MAULDIN' CARTOONS

John D. Kearney tells us of a "great book" of Bill Mauldin's cartoons. The 300-page paperback, entitled "Bill Mauldin's Army," if not available at a local bookstore, may be obtained for \$14.70 from Presidio Press, 31 Pamaron Way, Novato, CA 94947. ...Ed.



"Nonsense. S-2 reported that machine gun silenced hours ago.
Stop wiggling your fingers at me."

A PRISONER OF WAR'S STORY

I decided to make an American Flag. It seemed to me there was a necessity to reaffirm our identity, to be able to see and touch which was American, to again be reminded that we were American fighting men.

A bright red nylon set of underwear sent as a gift to a fellow POW was the material used for the red stripes.

On a brick I sharpened a soft piece of copper wire found in the yard. The other end was flattened and pierced with a sharp nail. I now had an excellent needle.

From a blue sweater provided me by the North Vietnamese I cut out a small rectangular patch. The thread which was used to embroider the stars onto the blue field was pulled from a small white towel, and heavier yellow thread pulled from a blanket made a perfect gold border. All my bits and pieces were carefully stitched onto a white handkerchief so that white stripes showed through the properly placed red strips of cloth.

Each evening for a week and a half, sitting with crossed legs and my back toward the windows to hide my work from the guard, I fashioned the symbol of freedom, the Freedom Flag. When I finished, I sewed it inside my mosquito net to hide it during the cell inspections by the North Vietnamese.

This symbol of Freedom was my most prized possession. It was the most beautiful thing in all of communist North Vietnam.

A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM

John A. Dramesi was born in Philadelphia, Pa. February 12, 1933. When he was a boy his family moved to Blackwood, NJ, where he and members of family continue to reside today.

He began his military career in January 1956. He was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. Pilot training followed at Laredo Air Force Base, Texas.

His initial assignment in Southeast Asia was in 1966, when he served with the 4th Infantry Division as an air liaison officer and division forward air controller. He was then transferred to Korat Air Base. Thailand.

John A. Dramesi was shot down on April 2, 1967 and captured by the North Vietnamese. He escaped eight days later, only to be recaptured on April 11, 1967. On May 10, 1969, after a year of planning, he led the only organized P.O.W. escape of the war from Hanoi. He was captured one day later. He was released on March 3, 1973 after six years of captivity in North Vietnam.

After his retirement, Colonel Dramesi was a 1982 candidate for the United States Congress in the First Congressional District of New Jersey. He is a life member of the V.F.W., AMVETS, Legion of Valor and Lions. He is also a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Kiwanis, Sons of Italy, Knights of Columbus and Air Force Association.

On February 21, 1984, Colonel Dramesi was appointed by Governor Thomas H. Kean as the Assistant Director of Veterans Programs for the State of New Jersey.

HISTORY OF THE CASEMATE MUSEUM

- THE ARMY'S COAST ARTILLERY MUSEUM

A casemate is a room or chamber inside the walls of a fort, which originally was designed to house 32-pounder cannons that protected the entrance to Hampton Roads. Yet, over the years, these casemates at Fort Monroe served a number of functional purposes. They were used as warehouses, storage facilities, offices, meeting rooms, living quarters, classrooms, and an officers' club. Today, however, many of these casemates serve as the Army's Coast Artillery Museum - The Casemate Museum.

The beginnings of the museum date back to 1949, when Dr. Chester D. Bradley was invited to address the Warwick Rotary Club. Dr. Bradley, a physician from Wabash, Indiana, had come to the Virginia Peninsula in 1938 as a member of the medical staff at the Hampton Veterans Administration Hospital. While exploring the many historic and scenic attractions of his new domicile, Dr. Bradley saw markers on the wall of casemate number 2 at Fort Monroe, where Jefferson Davis had been confined after the Civil War.

One of the markers, installed in 1932 by the Commonwealth of Virginia, chronicled Davis' two-year imprisonment at the fort. The other marker, made of bronze, was presented by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in honor of Dr. John J. Craven, Fort Monroe's Chief Medical Officer in 1865. Dr. Craven had shown considerable courage and kindness in his treatment of the Confederate President, who had been falsely accused of plotting Lincoln's assassination. Dr. Bradley thought that the bronze marker told a beautiful story: a Union doctor showing compassion for the former leader of the Confederate States. It reminded him of the verse in the Gospel of Matthew (25:36): "I was in prison and you came unto me."

The Hampton physician noticed that he was not the only person standing in front of casemate 2, and he wondered how many others from all over the country had come to see this site. Then it occurred to him that if the interior of this casemate became accessible to the public, even more people would be encouraged to see the cell in which Jefferson Davis was imprisoned. In the late 1930s, these random thoughts seemed far too illusory to become practical.

Later, Dr. Bradley left the Veterans Administration and went into private practice. So when he was invited to address the Rotarians, he faced a small dilemma. He did not want to speak on a medical subject, because it might appear to be self-promotion. After giving the matter some thought, he



Colonel Paul R. Goode, Co-founder of the Casemate Museum and Deputy Post Commander of Fort Monroe from 1949 to 1952.

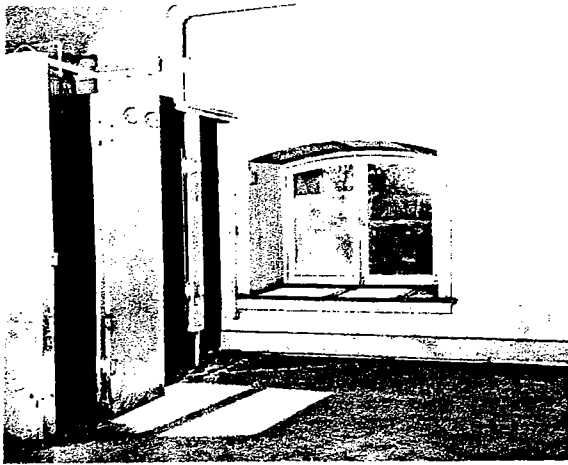
chose this theme: would it not be a fine thing to open the Jefferson Davis Casemate at Fort Monroe and start a museum there? He delivered his remarks on 12 December 1949.

The following day, the Newport News *Times-Herald* printed this editorial:

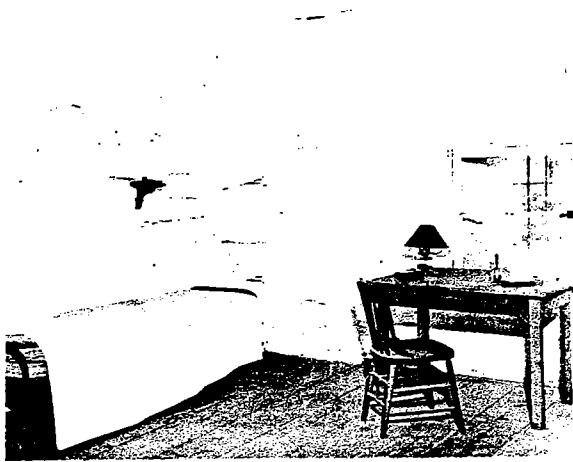
"Fort Monroe As A Historical Asset"

There's a lot of good sense in the thought offered the Warwick County Rotary Club last night by Dr. Chester D. Bradley. Speaking on "The Lower Peninsula And The American Tourist," he proposed that historic casemates at Fort Monroe be opened to public inspection, especially that in which President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy was confined....

For some years there was good reason to keep much of Fort Monroe's strategic equipment and its facilities out of the public eye. That was when the historic fort actually played a major part in our national defense system. Today it has lost much of that function and is adapted to headquarters of the Army Field Forces, an important but not so secret a role in relation to the fort's physical equipment.



The Jefferson Davis Cell before its restoration. Shower stalls occupied the spot where Davis' cot had been.



The restored Jefferson Davis Cell in the 1950s.

As a tourist attraction it would be unique....

Our local governing bodies and civic organizations could well take cognizance of the suggestion for opening the casemates at Fort Monroe and work with the military authorities to that end.

This unexpected endorsement sent Dr. Bradley reeling with excitement. But he soon received a letter even more thrilling, dated 14 December 1949 and on the stationery of Headquarters, Fort Monroe:

My Dear Doctor Bradley:

I am Colonel Paul R. Goode, the Deputy Post Commander at Fort Monroe. I am very new here, but your suggestion made to the Warwick County Rotary Club on 12 December strikes me as something that might well be explored towards restoring an historical shrine.

I am so new here that I cannot speak with any authority, but the Casemate formerly occupied by Mr. Davis is marked by a painted sign and is made available upon request for any of the visiting public. If you could see your way clear to drop in to see me sometime at your convenience, I would like very much to discuss what could be done to restore this to its condition about 1865. Our funds, of course, are limited but we might be able to work something out.

I realize that this is quite a lot to ask from a stranger, but I am not competent myself to judge what should be done, and I would very much appreciate your advice. When it is determined on what should be done I think there should be some action....

Dr. Bradley lost no time in seeing Colonel Goode, who also had been impressed by the bronze marker in memory of Dr. Craven. The colonel had secured a copy of Dr. Craven's book, *The Prison Life of Jefferson Davis*. Using an illustration from that publication, Colonel Goode felt that the actual cell could be restored to appear as it did in 1865. The Post Engineer could use his staff to remove the wooden wainscoting from the walls and the plaster from the ceiling. Then they could paint the walls and ceiling white, install a wooden plank floor, and fabricate iron bars for the doors and window - all as it had been during Davis' confinement. A plain wooden table and chair would be easy to acquire, as would an iron Army cot - which had not changed significantly since the Civil War. Creating exhibits, however, would be a problem.

In that day, there were no official sanctions or regulations that authorized the establishment of Army museums. Colonel Goode would charge the restoration work to maintenance, but there were no funds available to create or purchase exhibits. The colonel asked Dr. Bradley to form a committee of interested citizens to procure this interpretative material.

By the spring of 1950, the doctor had organized the Committee for the Jefferson Davis Casemate, with Colonel Goode and himself as co-chairmen. In addition to these two men, the committee had the assistance of Matthew T. Fulgham (an editor of the *Newport News Daily Press*), Robert C. Cutler (of the Public Relations Department, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company), Harold S. Sniffen (Curator of Prints for the Mariners' Museum), Mrs. Bea Kopp (a photographer for the *Newport News Daily Press*), and Malvin C. Weaver, whose lumber and millwork company made the two iron-barred doors for the restored Jefferson Davis cell. Later, BG Rollin L. Tilton (USA, ret.), George W. Serrett and John T. Brindley (both from the Chamberlin Hotel), Irving L. Fuller (representing the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce), COL David W. Dick (USA, ret.), and H. Norton Mason (the Adjutant-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans) joined the committee.

In order to give the fledgling museum some credibility, Dr. Bradley organized an honorary committee. General Mark W. Clark, Chief of Army Field Forces and a West Point classmate of Colonel Goode, accepted the chairmanship of this committee. Other members of the honorary committee included Dr. John E. Pomfret (Director, Huntington Library and Art Gallery, and formerly President of the College of William and Mary), Honorable C. Vernon Spratley (Justice, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia), Homer L. Ferguson (Chairman of the Board, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry



Dedication ceremonies for the Jefferson Davis Casemate, 1 June 1951. At the podium is Jefferson Hayes-Davis, the grandson of the Confederate President.

Dock Company), Raymond B. Bottom (President, the Daily Press, Inc.), Miss India Thomas (House Regent, Museum of the Confederacy), COL Paul R. Goode, (USA, ret.), Vice Admiral Alvin D. Chandler (President, College of William and Mary), John B. Woodward, Jr., (Chairman of the Board, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company), Mrs. Dorothy R. Bottom (Vice President and Business Manager, The Daily Press, Inc.) MG U.S. Grant, 3rd, (USA, ret.), COL Robert Arthur (USA, ret.), Dr. Roy F. Nichols (Vice Provost Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania), Lloyd R. Sorenson (Vice President and General Manager, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company), and COL Chester S. Shriver (past Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans).

The outbreak of the Korean War, and the subsequent temporary closure of the post to the public, delayed the restoration of casemate 2. In fact, not until 7 January 1951 was the public officially informed of the proposed project. The work was to be completed on 25 May, and the formal dedication ceremonies would take place nine days later. The dedication date was rescheduled for 1 June in order to coincide with the 61st and final reunion of the United Confederate Veterans in Norfolk.

The people attending this reunion arrived at Fort Monroe on a chartered passenger steamboat, bringing with them three Confederate veterans of the Civil War. Also with them was the grandson of the President of the Confederate States, Jefferson Hayes-Davis, a banking official from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Over 500 people attended the afternoon dedication ceremonies.

Harold Sniffen planned the arrangements for the museum's first exhibits in the parade room of the Jefferson Davis casemate (most casemates were divided into two rooms: the gun room, where the cannon would have been mounted overlooking the moat, and the parade room, which faced the parade field). Using photographs made by Bea Kopp of thirteen incidents in Davis' life, Mr. Sniffen had a

staff artist from the Mariners' Museum color the prints and frame them for display.

Now the committee encountered expenses that Colonel Goode could not finance. However, Dr. Bradley had kept the local ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy informed of the committee's plans, and they eagerly donated the modest sums that were needed for the materials and artwork. Thus, aside from the restored Davis cell, the first exhibits to be installed in the museum were funded by the Bethel, Hampton, and Old Dominion Dragoons Chapters of the UDC.

The development of the museum did not stop with the restoration and dedication of the Jefferson Davis Casemate. Colonel Goode wanted a major exhibit about the *Monitor* and the *Merrimack*. So on the eve of his retirement, he visited Lloyd Sorenson, an official of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company; the two men also had been high school classmates. As a result of this meeting, the shipyard's model making department built scale models of the two Civil War ironclads. These were displayed in the parade room of casemate 1, which opened to the public on 30 July 1952. Once again, Harold Sniffen prepared the exhibits, which were financed by a generous gift from the Fort Monroe Parent-Teachers Association.

Colonel Goode had designated three casemates to be used for the museum project, but the third one (casemate 3) was not opened until 1 July 1954. It was called the Old Fort Monroe Casemate and dedicated in honor of the military and civilian personnel who had served at this installation.



The exterior of the Casemate Museum in 1951.

In less than three years, the museum had tripled in size and was gaining international recognition. By the end of 1953, 21,420 people had visited the museum, and this number continued to increase each year. Late in 1954, Dr. Bradley presented a paper about Jefferson Davis and Dr. Craven at the XIV International Congress of the History of Medicine in Rome, Italy. His remarks were reprinted in the Belgian medical journal, *Scalpel*, with illustrations provided by the museum.

The continuing expansion of the museum and its activities increased its financial needs, which were met - in part - with the publication and sale of post cards and historical pamphlets. Soon after the Jefferson Davis Casemate was opened to the public, visitors began asking for post cards of the museum and Fort Monroe. At Colonel Goode's urging, the committee made arrangements with a Williamsburg firm to prepare several of the cards that are still sold today.

One of the early successes in this project occurred when Dr. Bradley learned from a friend in the National Park Service that it had been unable to have a copy made of the William Edward West oil portrait of Robert E. Lee as a young Army officer. The painting was owned by Mrs. Robert E. Lee III. Because of the inconvenience and loss of privacy, she would not allow a painter to enter her house to make a copy. Dr. Bradley, however, arranged to have a color photograph made of the painting, and then it was reproduced as a post card. As a result, the Casemate Museum became the first institution to publish a color post card of West's portrait. Following the death of Mrs. Lee, the painting became the property of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

Beginning in 1956, the museum began publishing a series of historical pamphlets that later developed into two series entitled "The Tales of Old Fort Monroe" and "The Casemate Papers." Several of these papers were written by Dr. Bradley. They served as useful resources for many museum visitors, as well as historians and librarians around the country.

1959 began sadly for the museum. On 17 January, the museum's co-founder and friend, retired Colonel Paul Goode, died. He had been serving as Deputy Governor of the U.S. Soldiers Home in Washington, D.C., but he continued to maintain contact with the museum. A native of Massachusetts, he had graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1917. During World War II, COL Goode was wounded and captured at Normandy, and he spent the rest of the war in a German prisoner-of-war camp. He retired from active duty in July 1952.

Dr. Bradley retired from his obstetrics practice in 1959, and accepted a position at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg - but he continued to perform a vast amount of administrative and research work at the museum. That spring, he and Mrs. Bradley attended a medical conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. While in Europe,

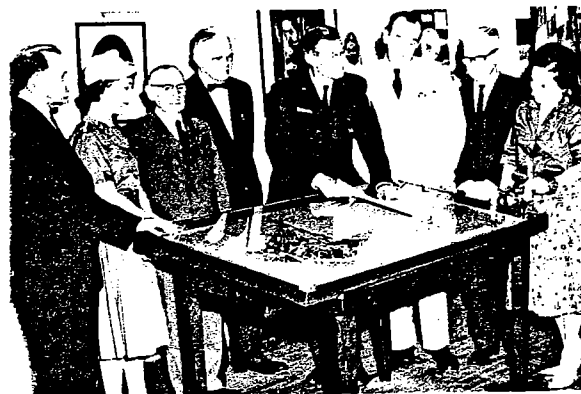


The bust of General Simon Bernard on exhibit in 1960.

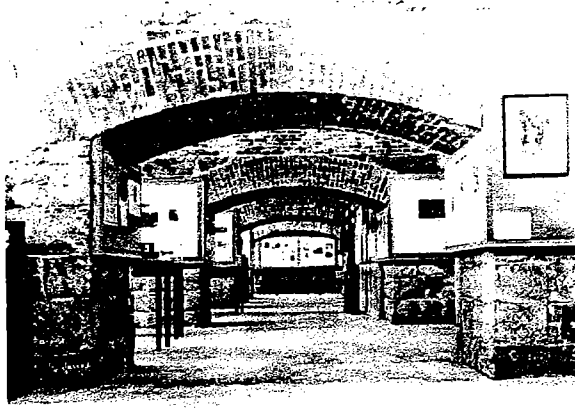
they visited Dole, France, which was the birthplace of Brigadier General Simon Bernard. Bernard was a former aide to Napoleon and the designer of Fort Monroe. Several regional newspapers reported the Bradley's visit, but what caught their attention most was a cast iron bust of the general displayed in Dole's library.

That December, the Casemate Museum received a plaster cast of the bust of General Bernard, along with this short note:

Please accept this bust of Bernard as a token of friendship from the people of France, especially those of Dole, for your nation, our friend, and as thanks for the honor you have done this great soldier and accomplished engineer.



Fort Monroe receives its certificate as a National Historic Landmark, 9 May 1961. Pictured from left to right are Harold S. Sniffen, Mrs. Miriam Bradley, Malvin C. Weaver, Dr. Chester D. Bradley, Stanley W. Abbott, COL Paul R. Jeffrey, Irving L. Fuller, and Mrs. Bea Kopp.



The expanded Casemate Museum in 1969.

Funding and staffing for the first seventeen years were always irregular. The installation engineers provided custodial services and maintenance for the facility. Two uniformed military police opened and closed the museum every day when they came to post and retire the national colors (the installation flag is flown atop the southwest, or flag, bastion, which is adjacent to the museum). The museum committee supervised the development of exhibits.

Thus, the museum actually ran itself. It was unattended, except when a committee member was working on an exhibit or preparing correspondence. The post cards and pamphlets were sold inside the entrance to the Jefferson Davis Casemate. Sales were based on the honor system, with money for purchases being dropped through a slot in a stout metal box. Once each week, a member of the museum committee emptied the box and deposited the funds in a local civilian bank.

Traditionally, the current Post Commander served as the co-chairman of the museum committee, while the current Commanding General of the major Army command at Fort Monroe served as the chairman of the museum's honorary committee. The entire committee met once each year for dinner and a reading of the annual report. The committee also filed a non-profit tax return annually with the Internal Revenue Service.

After Colonel Goode retired, some of the succeeding Post Commanders were uncomfortable about this anomalous arrangement: civilians from the surrounding community operating an unofficial museum on an Army installation. But not until 1967 did any one challenge this operation.

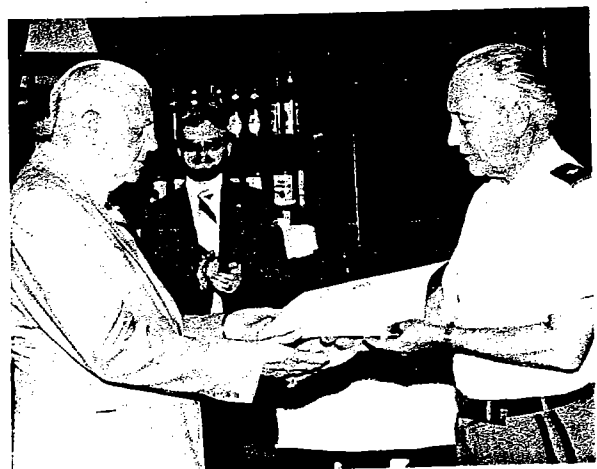
The new Post Commander, Colonel Henry L. Gordner, found that new Army regulations had been published since 1951 which authorized the military to give complete support to an Army museum. Soon thereafter, Colonel Gordner doubled the size of the museum - adding casemates 4, 5, and 6. The wooden wainscoting, partitions, and

floors were removed, and all the plaster on the ceilings and walls was laboriously chipped off by hand. The intent was to restore the museum's casemates to their original appearance of 1834, when most of the construction at Fort Monroe was completed. Central heat and air conditioning also was installed at this time. To accomplish all this work, the museum was closed from November 1968 to May 1969. Dedication ceremonies were held on 2 June.

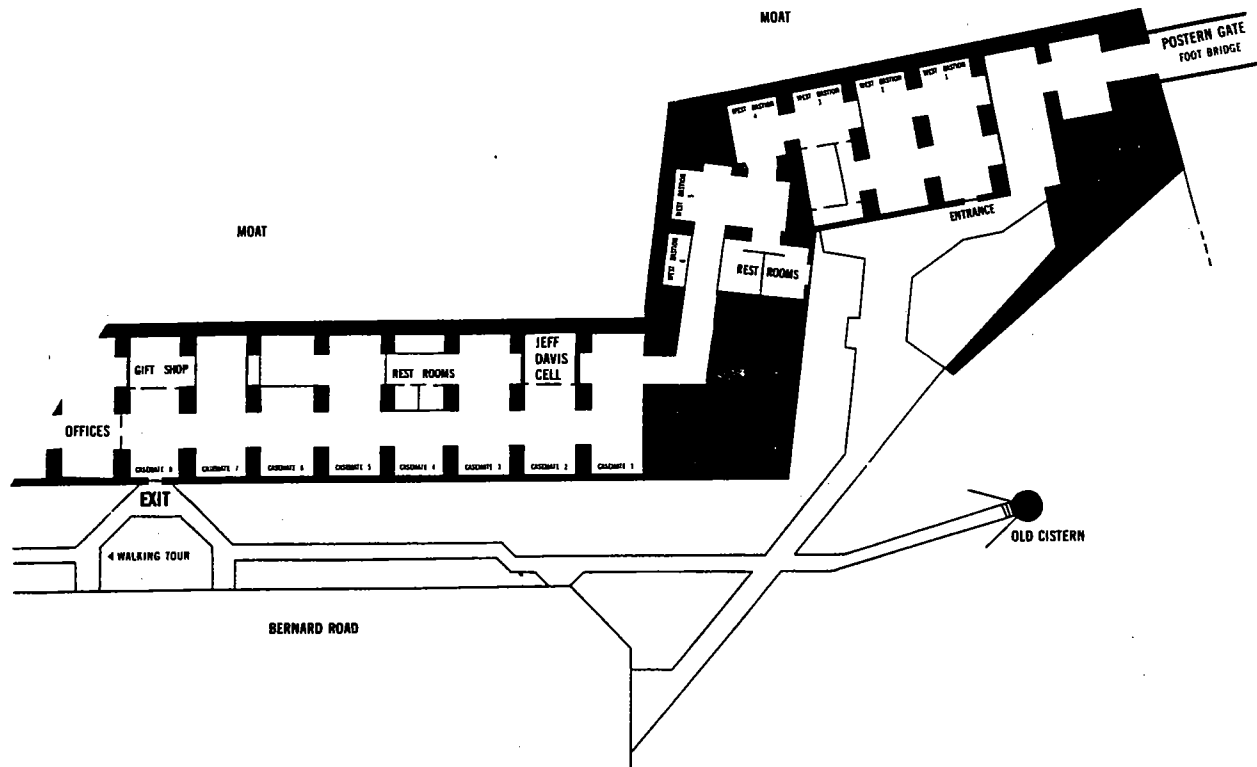
The most significant development of all was the allocation of appropriated funds and a permanent staff for the museum. Dr. Bradley, having long-since retired from his medical practice, was hired as the museum's first salaried curator. He retained this position until July 1973, when he retired again at the age of 72. Dr. Bradley had managed and directed the development of the Casemate Museum for over twenty-two years. In recognition for his service, Dr. Bradley was awarded the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Largely as a result of the museum committee's efforts (and Dr. Bradley in particular), the museum was well established as a major attraction on the Virginia Peninsula. By 1973, one million people had visited the Casemate Museum. In 1976, the museum opened its West Bastion exhibit, which displayed two 32-pounder seacoast guns in two casemates restored to appear as they would have been in the 1830s. Additional casemates were refurbished to serve as offices and storage facilities, and in 1977, the U.S. Army Center of Military History officially designated the Casemate Museum as the Army's Coast Artillery Museum.

On 1 June 1981, the Casemate Museum celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. There were special tours and exhibits at the museum and Battery De-Russy, a Coast Artillery battery acquired by the museum in the 1970s. At a reception held that afternoon, Dr. Bradley became the second person ever to receive the U.S. Army Center of Military History Award for Exceptional Public Service.



Dr. Chester Bradley, former curator, receives award from BG James L. Collins, Chief of Military History at Casemate Museum 30th anniversary party, 1 June 1981, as present curator R. Cody Phillips looks on.



The Casemate Museum in 1984.

The following year was a landmark in the museum's history. On 20 July 1982, the Casemate Museum was certified as a U.S. Army museum, and four months later, it was accredited by the American Association of Museums. At that time, only 520 museums had been accredited out of over 4800 such institutions in the country.

In spite of this tremendous accomplishment, the museum continued to grow. On 1 November 1982, the Casemate Museum closed to the public to undergo a massive renovation and expansion program. In eight months, the museum nearly doubled the size of its exhibit area, enlarged its gift shop, and landscaped its exterior. Sixteen new exhibits were installed before the museum reopened on 1 July 1983.

Yet even while the museum was experiencing this latest expansion program, plans were being made for the future development and progress of the Casemate Museum. The first meeting of the Casemate Museum Foundation, Inc. was held on 16 November 1983. This privately-funded organization was created at the urging of several local community leaders and retired Army officers in order

to provide supplemental educational and financial assistance to the museum. Almost 80 percent of the museum's total expenses were paid for by the Army, but the remaining 20 percent of the annual expenditures were financed with individual donations and profits from the museum gift shop. The foundation would raise the necessary funds for further additions to the museum.

In 1951, the Casemate Museum consisted of one casemate comprising 768 square feet. It was staffed by volunteers, and funded with the sales of post cards and pamphlets. 4,800 people visited the museum that year. Today, at least that many individuals will visit the museum in just one month. In the 1980s, the Casemate Museum has a salaried full-time staff, as well as a volunteer organization – with funds coming from the federal government, a gift shop, and individual and corporate donations. In less than thirty years, the museum has grown to include twenty-four casemates, and eight separate buildings totaling nearly 50,000 square feet of real estate. And it all started with just an idea of a small group of earnest people and a single casemate.