

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

BY JAMES BICKERS

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.

VOLUME XXV #3

POST OFLAG ITEM

AUGUST 1991

GLADWYNE, PA.

I can't believe it is now August and almost the end of it and I still haven't gotten this letter off to everybody or bring them up to date on the reunion in Norfolk, Virginia at the Holiday/Waterside Inn. The committee has been working and we now have a chaplain for our service but you'll notice the changes on the program with the memorial service at 8:30 and brunch at 9:30 a.m. This will suit a lot of you because you have early flights out. This will permit you to attend the memorial service, have breakfast and still make your trip to the airport and hop your plane for the trip back home. We are still trying to obtain some kind of entertainment for Saturday evening. Nothing definite as of yet but we are continuing to work on it and will be able to have a nice evening on Saturday at the hotel. This of course will be held in the main ballroom.

The enclosed list are those of the old gang who are registered to attend the reunion and we sure hope to add many new names to it. We have been keeping Wilber Sharpe very busy with the registrations as well as the checks so busy as a matter of fact that he had to open a bank account. Included in this mailing also is a postcard questionnaire and the committee would be very much appreciative if you would return it as soon as possible. It takes a 19¢ stamp to get it back to us and even with the heavy taxes, we figured that you could afford it.

It contains questions which are vital to the smooth operation of the reunion and plus making it easier not only for the committee, the hotel, but also yourselves. So please check off the required answers for your particular situation and send it back to us promptly. Thanks.

HOUSTON, TX.

I received a change of address card from Edward E. Fairchild of Houston Changing his address to Route 3, BOX 1 Groesbeck, Texas 76642. This was effective August, 1st, 1991. Thanks for letting me know and look forward to seeing you, not in Houston but in Norfolk, Va. in October.

On a very nice brief note from Edward E. Rooney of Spokane Washington who sent a nice donation to the P.F. and it is very thankfully received. I sure wish that you were a little closer so that you would be able to join us in our reunion hopefully you can but I can imagine that the airfare would be rather steep and can understand if you don't join us in Norfolk. Good health.

First, just a note to say that I got a nice call from Jim Bickers.

it was really a joy to talk with him and sure look forward to seeing him in Norfolk.

Than this past Monday night on the 12th of August I had a telephone call and was very pleased that I was able to have dinner with Frank Diggs from Washington who was up here to see a dear friend who was not well and in the hospital. He took time out anyway to have dinner with Mary and me at old Bookbinders in Philadelphia. Those of you that have been there will know that it serves up an excellent meal, in very unique surroundings the atmosphere is strictly old Philadelphia of many, many, years ago. It was a real joy to see Frank and talk with him for a long time during the evening. Thanks alot Frank. It was a great meal.

NORTH TONAWANDA, NY

Richard Manton dropped me a big long letter and was particularly interested in information about the Norfolk reunion because he was stationed in Fort Eustis Virginia so he's hoping to be able to make the reunion and we're hoping he will also. In the next paragraph he asked about Jim Lisembe and I sent him the address of Maxine because as I recall Jim past away. Thank you very much also Richard for your contribution to the P.F. and it is really appreciated.

He also told me that Reid Ellsworth had a stroke of which I was not aware, or at least I didn't recall. As far as I know he is still around and doing quite well in Pheonix Arizona. So, Jim we sure look forward to seeing you in Norfolk we are sure you will have a great time.

FAR HILLS, NJ

This of course is a letter from Joe Frelinghuysen. It is always nice to hear from Joe and also to plug his book which is entitled " The Passage to Freedom" and tells about not only his thoughts but his actions

how he was able to take the actions after much thought and alternative possibilities in completing his mission of advising the British coming up the east side of the boot that there was very little opposition ahead of them. This was a very excellent book and I recommend it highly and can be obtained from Joe at Far Hills, NJ.

He's sorry he won't be able to join us in Norfolk however he said that his cousin and wife from France are coming to visit and is not exactly a movable date. He is an American who was in Iran before and during the landings 1942. On November 8th 42' disguised as a frenchman, conveyed French troop and gun locations to Eisenhower's headquarter's by secret radio. Joe has all kinds of interesting people still in contact with him.

We also thank Joe for your very very nice contribution to the P.F. and look forward to seeing you again at the next reunion, keep in good health.

IONE, CA

I have been getting recently a kinds of very short notes with contributions for the P.F. and this one beats them all no note was inside just a check from lovely Mrs. Evelyn E. Rancr whose husband recently passed away. We certainly do appreciate your nice contribution. Thank you very much. Sure wish you would take the oppurtunity to join us in Norfolk but all the way from California I appreciate why we may not see you. Stay in good health so that when we to Colorado Springs next year we will have the pleasure of seeing you.

LANCASTER, PA

Sure nice of George Heer to contribute to the P.F. He is also planning to be in Norfolk in October. Thanks very much as a matter of

August, 1991

fact for your very nice contribution to the P.F. See you soon!

WATHMORE, PA

Brief letter from Tom Miller and the first thing he lists is a new person to add to our mailing list. Welcome John P. Smith of the 35th Division who lives in Huntington, Maryland. You'll find his address is 5701 Knoll Rd. Huntington, Maryland 20639. I sent to him information about the upcoming reunion and hope that he will join us there. We're looking forward to meeting you, John. Thank you Tom for sending John Smith's name to me.

ENGLAND, ARKANSAS

Bill starts off his letter by saying that getting old is no fun! Well it just depends upon your attitude. Well, sure we all forget things. I apparently sent to you the information regarding our reunion because I don't have the envelope you enclosed. Your right I did not include the copy of the letter by doctor Graffagnino but I will enclose it in this mailing. You must have had a lot of fun with Bob Shlo in Saint Louis. I didn't know that there was so much to see in Saint Louis. Many square miles of abandoned high rise apartments and hundreds of brick homes I had read about this, but didn't know that it was still around I thought that they knocked it all down. Sure look forward to seeing you in Norfolk and hope to have some time to chat with you. I knew that "Grof" was planning to have a reunion in a Stone Mountain but I think he cancelled it before he passed away because it wouldn't have enough room to hold everybody and the general feeling was that it was too far out in the country and it would not be amenable to most people. Again looking forward to seeing you at the holiday/Waterside Inn.

LEXINGTON, VA.

Sure good to hear from Morris Jones and we certainly appreciate his nice contribution to the P.F. Thank you for advising me of the death of Captain Eugene M. McDonough of Hemstead N.Y. He passed away on April 18th 1991. We had him on our mailing list and I have changed the name to Mrs. McDonough hoping that she will want to continue on the list. As for the circumstances surrounding his capture it's too bad that you never learned how he was captured even though you were in the Oflag 64 with him. It's odd that he was liberated at 64 and still went through Odessa that was certainly nice of him to write to your family and tell them you were o.k. and that you had seen him. Difficult to ascertain the circumstance involving his wife. As to your disposition of the Roads to Liberation by Melleson it's a good idea for other people to copy and do the same thing giving a copy of it to each one of your children and then also to the George C. Marshall Library on the Virginia Military Institute Post. Thanks also again for the contribution to the P.F. Sure hope you can make it to Norfolk because it's not far from Lexington to Norfolk. Look forward to seeing you there.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Nice to hear from Doctor Louis H. Tankin who was a medical officer who stayed behind with those unable to travel when we marched out of Oflag 64. He mentions that some of those that were there are Colonel Drury who has since gone to the great beyond. Wright Brian both of whom had wounds on their feet and you yourself had a phlebitis from a crushing injury to your left leg. Would certainly like to get a copy of your experience from your capture to ODESSA and freedom. Nice to know that you were with John Kreeh and Doctor DeFrancesco. Thanks for buying the book because I know Clarence appreciates every order that he receives from the Oflag 64 group.

hope to see you also in Norfolk because it is not a very long trip down to Norfolk I will be making it myself in October. Thanks for your letter.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

What a great surprise from Louisville. William B. Cory is planning to attend the reunion and it certainly as he opens his letter says "I know it's been longer than one can calculate when you last heard from me. That is for sure." I'm glad to know that he is still around as he was a member of the same outfit 805 TD from which I came so it's going to be great to see you, again. It's also a pleasure to be able to thank you for your wonderful contribution to the P.F. It's also great that you have already registered and I sure hope that you've been able to get Craig Cambell to come to the reunion to join you and I and probably Tomami because he usually comes and maybe we can even get in a game of cribbage. As I recall we played for about 3 months straight after dinner during the summer of 44. It was nice that you were able to keep in contact with General Waters as he cherished every contact that he had with a P.O.W. I didn't know that your comment about him regarding his first job as a teenager was keeping bees for your dad and I know that it kept him with a hobby for the rest of his life because he used to send me from time to time, jars of honey which I definatly appreciated. I use honey all the time. It's interesting to know that your father was a painter, an artist, and that he had given John a painting that your father had done. I had know idea that there was any artists in your background. I dont think I've ever seen any paintings of yours. We certainly look forward to having a great time with you and I hope you can handle it because heavens It's been so long, since we've seen you. Anyway we'll see you in October and I know that you will have a great time.

ROLLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Received a nice letter from one of the old loyal corp Verris Hubble. He also sent me, and thanks very much a very nice check for the P.F. For which we are happy to receive he indicated that Lu Wilcox had had a slight stroke but it is doubtful that they will be at the reunion. I have not heard from Jack Rathbone either, so I don't know whether he will be able to be there or not. He usually tries to make it but never knows untill almost the last minute. 'Hub' indicated he was unable to identify the individual in the picture that I sent to him in which he was included but hopes to be able to do it when he gets to the reunion. I'll be looking forward to seeing you at the reunion in Norfolk. Stay healthy.

JEFFERSON, GEORGIA

A letter from Judge James H. Wood and I sincerly thank him for dropping me a line as well as including a nice check for the P.F. he said he will join us in spirit even though he continues to stay in Georgia.

In response to the book "Road to Liberation" from Oflag 64 he said he read Herb Garrises' review of the book and as Winston Churchill said "I will sit in the chair and while pictures and faces moods and sensations long vanished, return, I'm pale but true there dreams a like of oth days." He hopes that all of us have a good time at the meeting. Thank you for writing Judge and sorry you will not be able to make it to the reunion we would enjoy seeing you.

FAIRLAWN, N.J.

I got a nice letter from Joe Freedman hoping that Mary and I have the best of health as I thought I mentioned her status in the last newsletter but he says I did not so just to let you know that she is improving considerably and doing reasonably well these days. I was not familiar with Major Paul Hall and his "Mission to

oscow" and receiving a P.O.W's coming
to Odessa. Joe says he is still his
closest fiend even though he did not
go to Odessa himself and ended up in
Eckenwalde. He sent me an enclosed
obituary that on July 4th 1991 and I
also received another obituary from
Clarence Meltesen on the same indiv-
idual one both from the New York Times.
Actually he died on the 3rd of July
and not the 4th. Earnest Grunberg was
75 and a psychiatrist and professor in
mental hygiene and you can read his
obituary on the speacial sheet enclosed
here with. I will just use one and
print it on the sheet along with other
obitices I may recieve. Thank you very
much Clarence and Joe for sending
these in as many times I do not recieve
by it is difficult to write up any-
thing about the people who have passed
away. Thank you Joe and Sylvia for
your consideration on our behalf per-
haps we can and I hope you are both
planning to join us in Norfolk as will
be great to see you. I will tell
Hingenbotham to bring his Oflag 64
trophen so that those interested may see
as well as any who desire may play it.
It would be interesting to have Paul
Hall come to one our reunions. If that
could be arranged though he might want
to make some remarks to our group and
some of the fellows who came through
Odessa may remember him and would like
to reaquaint themselves with him.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

From Jack Stewart he sent a nice
check to the P.F. which we indicates
that he will not be able to make the
Norfolk reunion well maybe you wont
be able to make this one but Jack I
hope you are reminded about next
year when it will be held in Colarado
Springs right in your back yard as it
is here and we'll look foward to seeing
you in Colarado Springs. Sorry you
can't make it to Norfolk. Thanks again
for your check to the P.F.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Joe Answorth writes and includes

a check for the P.F. saying that he will
be at the reunion in Norfolk and we will
certainly look forward to seeing you too
Joe as well as Ruth in Norfolk. Stay
healthy and thanks again for the contri-
bution to the P.F.

Fairchild whom I mentioned supplied
a change of address card as well as a
check to the P.F. Thanks much for this
contribution and it will ensure you re-
ceiving the newsletters for a little while
to come anyway I sure hope that you are
going to enjoy your time as you retire
from your teaching position at the Univer-
sity of Texas Health Science Center at
Houston. He not only retired from his
teaching job but he also extends his invi-
tation and mark this down on your book to
visit him at correction he also invites
Mary and I to visit him at his P.W.A ranc
which is shortened for Pee Wee Acres ranc
he now has about 45 head af cattle some
are registered red Bramen and some are
registered Herperets also present are 6
hores with more expected, three burrows,
dogs, chickens, ducks, geese, and pigeons
Quite a collection, he also has a few fis
So there will be plenty to do at the P.W.
ranch just to get caught up on the live-
stock if you ever visit in that area I do
not know that I will but I will sure keep
it in mind and if we ever get down to Tex
we'll certainly make every effort to stop
out to the ranch. Thank you very much fo
the cudos, Bud, regarding the newsletter
but it is not a very difficult job for me
to do and I enjoy doing it. Are you goin
to be able to make it to Norfolk? We cer-
tainly hope so and look foward to seeing
you. Thanks again for your contribution
to the P.F.

I am enclosing a questionnaire which
was sent to me some time ago by Don W.
Jurges regarding research on prisoners of
war I called Don and asked him if he stil
wanted this to be duplicated and sent out
and he said he would enjoy it very much.
His purpose is to assist in the set up of
a P.O.W. museum at Andersonville, Georgia
although he lives in Minnesota. All it
requires is for you to fill it out and
then send it to him in Minnesota and he
will send it to be included at the P.O.W.
museum located at Andersonville Georgia
National Historic Site to be used by
future generations. So if you want to be
kept in the publics eye in the future jus
fill out the questionnaire and send it in
Don. His name and address is all include

n the second side of the questionnaire.
on also feel free to attend the re-
nion in Norfolk October 11-13 at the
oliday/Waterside Inn. Next year on
r about the same dates only it will
e held in Colarado Springs this might
e a little closer for you. Thank you
ery much for submitting this ques-
ionnaire to me and hope you get a lot
f replies.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Just a brief note which has been
verlooked and in between a lot of paper
y yours truly written on January 16th
991 by Rocko Pravidica just briefly
ending a note to let me know that he is
njoying his Oflag items which he re-
eived so far. Also thank you Rocko for
our contribution to the P.F. and we are
ll looking foward to seeing you in
orfolk. We hope that your health holds
p and that you will be able to make it.

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Back in February Don Graul sent me
letter that included a check for the
.F. and also a colored photo enlarged
f the group that traveled with Henry
he previous year in August including
ll the names of the parties in the
icture. I mislaid this envelope but
e sent me another letter asking me if
had gotten the other letter. I fin-
lly located this and apologized to Don
or this delay but never the less I
hought you all would like to see the
roup in Warsaw 1990 in the square where
hose of us who traveled to Poland in
971 also assembled for individual group
ictures. It is very interesting and I
ill try to get it inexpensively re-
roduced from color photo to black and
hite. Thanks again Don for the con-
ribution to the P.F. and I'm glad I
ound this letter and as I said earlier
will try to get it reproduced so
everyone can share. Look forward to
eeing you in Norfolk in October.
hanks.

SACRAMENTO, CA

Nice long letter from George Durg
who tried to call me prior to sending
this and then decided it would be just
as well to send a letter so I wouldn't
forget to do something that he asked me
to do. Of course I'm not always in so
he felt it would also eliminate the
answering machines chatting back and
forth to each other. I'm glad to hear
that it appears as though he and his
wife Jenny will be able to make it to
Norfolk and for this we will enjoy it
very much because to come from one coa
to the other is quite a task. I sent
you a reply to your question as to
whether you should register send a che
for \$95.00 or \$190.00 please excuse me
for not indicating that the \$95.00 is
per person and not for a couple. The
reunion packet will go out to your
former company commander Harris Machus
because he is on our list and recieves
all the mail that is sent out as you do
I have his correct address on my list.
Thank you very much for reminding me a
making sure he gets the information. I
certainly hope that he also will be in
Norfolk because we have not seen him f
quite some time. See you in Norfolk.

EDITOR

John F. Slack

AFTERTHOUGHTS:
SEPTEMBER 10, 1991, is the cutoff date for the holding of ROOMS at the HOLIDAY INN/
WATERSIDE. Please get your RESERVATIONS INBY THAT DATE OR YOU BE TAKING
CHANCES ON BEING ABLE TO GET ONE AT THE REUNION HEADQUARTERS.
Cruise the harbor on the "CARRIE B" AS AN ALTERNATIVE to taking the WILLIAMANS-
DURG TOUR ON Friday. Approx. price, \$ 12.00.
MANY other places are also available to visit.



Sitting

Dorothy Brown
 Evelyn Oshlo
 Bess Bingham
 Welles Adams
 Grace Adams
 Elizabeth Diggs
 Frank Diggs
 Clementi Holder
 Darek Dudziak
 Magda Dudziak

1st row standing

Elaine Creech
 John Chreech
 Daniel Reading
 Muriel Reading
 Billy Bingham
 Carol Runyon
 Ruby Heil
 Donald Graul
 Lorraine Glendinning
 Ruby Moffatt
 Louis Moffatt
 Randolp Holder
 Lewis Lowe
 Mildred Kasitz
 Janet Lowe
 Henry Soderberg
 Edgar Kaufman
 Paul Buen

Back row

Robert Oshlo
 Sydney Thal
 George Herr
 Joseph Brown
 Theodore Runyon
 Norma Jones
 Curtis Jones

though acquainted since childhood with famous choreographers and artists, she remained modest in manner. *NY Times July 4 '91*

Ernest Gruenberg, 75, Psychiatrist And Professor in Mental Hygiene

By ALFONSO A. NARVAEZ

Dr. Ernest Matsner Gruenberg, a psychiatrist and epidemiologist who pioneered in community mental health, died on Tuesday at Washington Hospital Center in Washington. He was 75 years old and lived in Bethesda, Md.

He died of multiple organ failure, his daughter said.

Dr. Gruenberg retired in 1981 as chairman of the department of mental hygiene at the School of Mental Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and as a professor of psychiatry at its school of medicine. He had held the positions since 1975.

Director of Health Panel

Before that he had been a professor of psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and director of the psychiatric and epidemiology research unit of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene. He had also been an assistant in the department of psychiatry and in the department of public health at Yale University.

Dr. Gruenberg, a 1941 graduate of the medical school at Johns Hopkins, also earned advanced degrees in mental health at Yale University in 1949

and 1955. In addition to his private psychiatric practice, he had served as executive director of the New York State Mental Health Commission, as a member of the technical staff of the Milbank Memorial Fund in Manhattan and as a psychiatrist at Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan and at the Hudson River Psychiatric Center.

As head of the State Mental Health Commission, he worked for the enactment of laws promoting the development of mental health programs and the creation of local community mental health facilities.

In World War II, he served as a captain with the 101st Airborne Division. He was captured by the Germans two days after the invasion of Normandy and was liberated from a German prisoner-of-war camp in Poland by Russian troops.

He was a member of many professional societies and wrote more than 100 articles for scientific publications.

He is survived by two sons, Nicholas, of Newark, and Matthew, of Brookline, Mass.; a daughter, Ann, of Mansfield, Conn., and a sister, Hilda Krech Stanislawski of Berkeley, Calif.

June 30, 1991

PHILADELPHIA
INQUIRER

Weekend journal

Norfolk is first a Navy town, where pure patriotism thrives

Waves of patriotism in Norfolk

By Stephen Williams
Newday

NORFOLK, Va. — This city is the edge of America's South. It is the expanse of Chesapeake Bay, miles of harbor, funky and fancy cuisine, colonial history, Anchor Steam beer served in a restored Gothic church, quaint Victorian architecture. And, it's a great place to spend a weekend.

First, though, Norfolk is a Navy town.

When the last war came to town — Saddam Hussein's war — probably more American flags were sold in the little Flag Stand shop at the Waterside development than in all of Massachusetts.

"When the war broke out, they were lined up at the door," said Tara Persico, who was working in the Flag Stand that day in January. "Stuff that'd been lying around the store for years — car antenna flags! — sold out. We even sold out the Iraqi flags. I think people bought them and burned them."

Persico's father is in the Navy. That's something you get used to hearing people say in this part of the country. Whether you venture onto the peninsula — up to Hampton or Williamsburg or Newport News — or east to the Virginia Beach coast, or travel south from Norfolk, deeper into what the locals call the South Side, to such towns as Portsmouth and Suffolk and Chesapeake, it's the same. "Guess what! My boyfriend's in [port] on the Kennedy," a waffle-house waitress in Virginia Beach told her friend. "My brother's coming in Friday on the America. He's been out four months," a shipbuilder told his pal in a Newport News 7-Eleven. "He'll have some stories to tell."

The Navy is unavoidable in Norfolk, and the overtones of war and glory and history — especially vibrant at Norfolk's Douglas MacArthur Memorial — can be stirring for visitors who are inclined to wax sentimental about such things. American pride is just as strong in the Tidewater region as it is along Boston's Freedom Trail or in Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Norfolk is the queen of homecoming towns, which is part of the reason for the patriotism. The naval base, with its air station, is the largest in the world. Cruising past it from the Waterside, the "NOB" — an archaic acronym for Naval Operations Base — is even more imposing: acres of gray metal, ponderous floating hulks that, despite their size, have a certain grace about them, even at rest. Up close, you realize how big an aircraft carrier is: Really big.

On the day in April that I toured the base (the hour-long tour conducted by Navy enlisted personnel is a must when visiting Norfolk and environs), some of the big ships had just returned from the Persian Gulf: carriers, oilers, battleships. The traffic jam on land — families, friends, girlfriends, all jockeying for position by the massive docks — was immense. More than 100,000 men and women (and 150 ships of the Second Fleet) are stationed at Norfolk, and it seemed as if all of them were coming home that day.

The McDonald's restaurant on the base, which our guide, a cherub-faced Texan named Casey Ferguson, said was the second-busiest in the world, after Moscow, was serving billions of burgers just that afternoon. There were waiting lines for the phones where the USS Kalamazoo had docked. "We Love You Kalamazoo," read a big white sheet painted red and blue that was draped over a booth. "K-ZOO CAN DO," said another.

MacArthur's memorial

Norfolk is also home to a splendid art museum, yuppie-esque dining places and a village-like residential area called Ghent that is a pleasure to stroll.

Smack in the center of town — in MacArthur Square, no less — is Gen. Douglas MacArthur's memorial.

The general rests under a regal rotunda that would do justice to a head of state. The tomb is surrounded by 11 "galleries" on two levels that examine the great man's life, from his birth in Little Rock in 1880 to his death in 1964.

There're his hat, his corncob pipe, his aviator sunglasses. There are portraits, MacArthur's old Remington shaver, helmets, maps, foreign names that stir the memory: Bataan, Corregidor, the 49th Parallel, Truman. Most moving is the reconstruction of MacArthur, as Allied supreme commander, accepting the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri in September 1945.

MacArthur's words, quoted throughout the exhibit, are especially evocative: "Duty, honor, country"; "I shall return"; "in war there is no substitute for victory"; "...old soldiers never die; they just fade away..." Old soldiers do die, but few are remembered in this fashion.

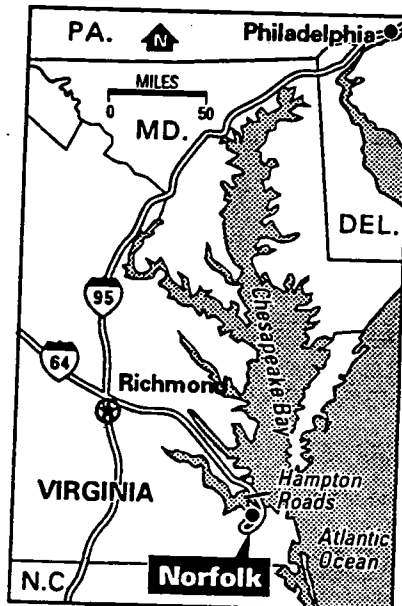
Just a two-minute walk south from the memorial is the Waterside development where the visitor looking for lunch will find croissants and cappuccino, a seafood bar and a pasta-pizza joint. Those who don't mind something messy would do well to head for the Pierce's Bar-B-Que Inc. stand. Pierce's pork barbecue on a bun is close to roadside quality, except that the bun's too soft. The fare is cheap, too: less than \$5 for a hefty sandwich and a soft drink.

Dining at an old abbey

An alternative is Freemason Abbey, at the corner of Freemason and Boush streets. The abbey was once just that, built as a church in 1863 and converted three years ago. The best view from any table is of the beamed cathedral ceiling. The menu is plentiful and varied, with lots of lobster dishes, and meals are complemented by cold Anchor Steam beer.

Combining touring with dining can be accomplished aboard the Spirit of Norfolk, a modern yacht that serves up a buffet with a two-hour cruise of Hampton Roads Harbor; prices range from \$16.95 to \$18.50 for adults.

I sailed aboard another cruiser, the Carrie B. (all the harbor cruise boats, including the Spirit, the Carrie B. and the American Rover, leave from Waterside), where the emphasis is on the descriptive narration rather than the eats (although the



CONTINUED
OVER

hot dogs aren't bad). Fares are \$10, \$5 for children under 12.

Guide Mark Johnson knows most of the nooks and crannies along the Elizabeth River and the harbor, the so-called Hampton Roads Waterway. He should, he's been giving tours on this riverboat replica for years.

But, no matter what vessel you select, you should definitely see Norfolk from the water. A city with so much maritime history can, perhaps, be appreciated best from a waterborne vantage point.

There are a number of places to stay in the area, but the most convenient hotel to the harbor and Waterside attractions is the fortress-like Omni International (phone 804-622-6664); rooms run \$104 to \$154, double, and package discounts are available. At Virginia Beach, about a 30-minute ride from Norfolk, the Radisson at 1900 Pavillion Dr. (phone 804-422-8900) has double rooms for \$94, with various packages available. The Sheraton Beach Inn, more centrally located on the ocean at 36th Street (phone 804-425-9000), charges \$115 to \$123 for a double.

Tours of the massive Norfolk Naval Base are conducted daily from 9:30 to 2:30. The guided visit, by van, takes an hour (\$4, \$2 over 60 or under 12). Departure point is from the tour office, 9809 Hampton Blvd. on the base, 804-444-7955, 15 minutes from downtown Norfolk.

For more information

Contact the Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau, 236 E. Plume St., Norfolk, Va. 23510; phone 804-441-5166.

Exercise in Nostalgia

As you read this we could be standing in the brick and cobble-stone *platz* between the two main buildings of the old, boys school in Sczubin. The chances are it will look much the same as it did when we first saw it in May 1944. Beyond the Oder, villages in eastern Europe and Poland do not change much with the passage of years.

In 1944, Szubin was the site of Oflag (*Offizierlager*) 64, the German prison camp for captured ground force American officers below the rank of full colonel. But it had a longer history. When war in Europe became certain, the Poles themselves had closed the school, built some barracks on its 10 acre grounds and converted it into a billeting area for Polish cavalry. After the *blitzkrieg* in 1939, the Germans ringed it with barbed wire, added more barracks and turned it into a POW camp. They even renamed the village, Altburgund. Before June 1943, when it became a camp for Americans, the French, British and Russians knew it as prisoners also.

Since the war, a small nucleus of former prisoners has kept an alumni-like organization in existence. On infrequent occasions there have been reunions. (We attended one in New York in 1950—a rollicking, drunken bash at Toots Shor's with entertainment supplied by a talented group of ex-prisoners who, during camp days, had improvised a stage and theater in one of the barracks and helped to relieve our boredom the plays and variety shows.) About four years ago, at another reunion in Chicago, the idea of a travel junket to revisit Sczubin was conceived. Finally, this year, after a couple of abortive attempts to arrange one in the interval, the tour will take place.

At peak occupancy, there were some 2000 American prisoners in the Sczubin camp. From the list sent out of those planning to make the present tour (about thirty, not including wives), only six or seven names are familiar to us. The returnees will be a mixed group; they will range in age from 45 to 70. Nearly every one will have a different story to tell about how the war ended for him as an individual, for some were left in the camp and were there when the Russians overran it, others dropped by the wayside at different places in Poland and northern Germany on the eight-week long march to Berlin and Luckenwalde. Nearly every one, also, will have his own recollections of the camp itself. Some will remember the many tunnel-digging and escape projects, some the amateur theatricals, some the volleyball and softball games. All will remember the endless hours of daylight during the short summer season, the endless hours of darkness during the long winters, and the interminable, grinding days of dull, chronic hunger when food was our chief preoccupation.

It should be an interesting exercise in nostalgia. Not one of us, who remained in or left the camp in the snow and sub-zero weather late in January 1945, would have entertained the thought of ever wanting to see it again. It was not the kind of garden spot where you'd willingly choose to spend a vacation.

But time mellows all, and curiosity overcomes even the least sentimental of us. The chance to see for ourselves whether memory is accurate, or whether it all could have been as miserable as it once seemed, has been too good to pass up. So instead of heading west into the sunset for a medical meeting in Hawaii, we're off in the opposite direction to Poland. At least the snow might be melted by now.

P.C.G.

Dr. Peter G. Grafino
Columbus, Ga

John - I found this in an
old Medical Publication -

Alfred M. Stetson

"Mascoque Co. Medical Society"
108 Doctors Bldg
Columbus, Ga - 31901

May 1971

CURRENT REGISTRATION LIST

8/19/91

Arthur Bryant & Vivian

George A. Britto & Betty

Al Cecil & Dorothy

Joe Annsworth & Ruth

Bob Oshlo & Evelyn

Royal Lee & Harriet

Verris Hubbell

Martin Kaiser

Irving Yarock

James Bancker & Peggy

Len Vaden & Evelyn

Curtis Jones & Norma

John Cramer & Dorothy

O.L. Bradford & Jean

Ted Pawloski & Adele

Matt Smith & Bel

Vincent DiFrancesco & Mary

John F. Slack & Mary

Roger Cannon & Ruby

Jim Macarevey & Nan

George Herr & Betty

Ed Batte & Elizabeth

William Cory & Caroline

Joseph Seringer & Joan

Roy Chappel & Helen

Wilbur Sharpe & Mary

Lewis Lowe & Janet

Marvin Chevalier & Faye

Thomas Lawson & Betty

Robert Eckman & Lillie

Jerome Hutch

Joe Friedman & Sylvia

J.Frank Diggs & Elizabeth

James F. Bickers & Emmy Lou

Al Casner & Lou

Jerry Moher & Jenny

HOLIDAY INN/WATERSIDE
 NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
 OCTOBER 10, 11, 12, 13, 1991

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

| | <u>PLACE</u> | <u>ACTIVITY</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>PRICE</u> |
|----------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| THURSDAY | Nations Room (Hospitality) | Complimentary Wine & Cheese | 5:30-6:00 | - |
| FRIDAY | Hospitality in Nations Room Open All Day | Cash Bar Continental Breakfast | 5:00-7:00 | <i>N/C</i> |
| | Williamsburg (Optional - Minimum 30 people) | Tour | 9:00-4:00 | 30.00 |
| SATURDAY | Naval Base & Ship's Tour and MacArthur Memorial | Tour | 9:00-2:30 | |
| | Officer's Club | Lunch | 12:00 approx. | |
| | Kriegies Nations Room | Meeting | 3:30 | |
| | Main Ball Room | Cash Bar Dinner Program | 6:00-7:30 7:30 | |
| SUNDAY | Main Ball Room | Memorial Service Brunch | 8:30 a.m | |
| | | | 9:30 a.m | |

NOTE: Gratuities not included on tours.

Registration \$95.00 /Person