

VOL XXVII

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

MAY 1993

Louisville, KY Bill, thank you and your staff for the assist in completing a more accurate mailing list. The nice part of it was having old timers from Szubin, like you, with a wider knowledge and memory of names, and plus the fact that you have attended reunions more regularly and are able to provide more current up to date information. Please continue with this effort as we come nearer to October and our next reunion. In that regard we do appreciate the fine effort that you are making on the registrations and the 50th Anniversary Booklet preparations. Best wishes for you and continue to use the fax to me and I will be available to assist in any way I can. Bill Cory, 1993 Reunion Coordinator.

Mesa, AZ Newt, thank you for your check for the P.F. How about a catch up note from you when you can. Better still, try to make it to Louisville with us. Newton W. Lantron.

Charlotte, NC Ormond, thank you for the generous check for the P.F. Did you know Ed Anthony from Charlotte? His wife and family still live there. He and I cut out from the haystack in Poland together. Ormond Hessler.

Wilmette, IL Jim, (he is the one who drew the fine sketch overlooking the entry to Oflag 64 which appears above as The Post Oflag 64 Item masthead). We are proud and grateful to you for it. Your recent report to me on the production progress of the 50th Anniversary Booklet sounds good, and while some deadlines have been hard to meet with the printer I rest assured that it is under control. Certainly, with your vast experience and talents we are fortunate to have you in charge. Glad I was able to get the mailing list out and as current as possible to you, with a

few small changes. Jim, feel free to give me a ring or write as we near the publication date if you need my help. Surely enjoyed the two telephone calls and my best to you. Jim Bickers.

Williamsburg, VA Harvey, Thanks for your note and the Washington Post copy of the fine article which described the Escape Factory at Fort Hunt, VA. Have a copy of Lloyd Shoemaker's book and refer to it constantly. Hope to see you and Ann in Louisville in October. Am on the phone regularly to Charles Corbin who sends his best from Woodlake. Harvey Patterson.

Spokane, WA Herman, thank you for the fine obit which you sent to me from The Spokane Spokesman Review on Jerry Sage. We do appreciate it and will miss him. It was brought home vividly to me when I spoke to a classmate of Jerry's as WSU and he told me that he had heard it the night before on C-Span. Perry Roberts lives here in Pinehurst. Our congratulations on the fine recovery you are making after the heart surgery. Your exercise with the aerobics should bring you back into good shape before long, especially with your nurse daughter managing your discipline. Best wishes. Herman Littman.

Enterprise, AL Clayton, I do appreciate the two excellent obits which you sent me from Enterprise and Dothan. I have used them in the latter part of The Item. Also your nice gift of a check to the Jerry Sage Memorial Fund has been received, many thanks. Please ask your friend who assisted you to mail me some data on himself and I want to get him on the mailing list shortly. Meanwhile share this copy with him. Clayton Metcalf.

Kerrville, TX Bob, many thanks for your nice letter in early April with the full and very interesting profile. No doubt you knew David Westheimer from Houston, his book is being reviewed in this issue. I hope there is a someday that you and Nina will plan to come to our reunion in Louisville in October. Many of us would like to meet and share some mutual ideas. You both are welcome. Bob and Nina Weinberg, Stalag Luft III Officers.

Brandon, MS Tom, your letter came along with the brief but very impressive vita too. I felt so good to have found you doing so well. The last touch we had was at the concert that you gave there in Szubin, and as I mentioned to you, it was thru a gift from Garvin Fitton of several, perhaps all, of the musical and dramatic programs provided for us there, and having heard that you may be up in New England, I then tried Mississippi. Your career has been most productive and successful, and as we say "back home", we are so proud of you. I surely hope that this year both you and Forrestine will try to come to Louisville, for you will make a lot of folks happy. Tom and Forrestine Holt.

Potomac, MD Brandy, thank you for your note and the news about your mother, Mrs. John Waters. We are all saddened by her illness, and we will honor your request to delete her name from the mailing list, but we hope and trust that you will keep us in touch from time to time. Mainly, please let us know in whatever way we may assist you. Mrs. Brandy Cole.

Clearwater, FL Betsy Lee, thank you for your letter and the check for the P.F. John has turned The Item over to me. Your kind words about his long and dedicated service are so true and well deserved. His assistance in my last six months has been of the highest order. Thank you and our best wishes. Betsy Lee Lucey (widow of George Lucey).

London, England Ken, what a thoughtful and newsy letter. This was in response to my note to him advising him that I was planning to be in Europe in early March and hoped we may work a time convenient to each of us to meet and visit a bit. Without his telephone and the split timing, it was not successful. John had given me a short insight about you and your service with the British Army, but your account was priceless, and I did enjoy it. Dunkirk has always amazed me as to how Hitler failed to seal off that evacuation. You will be pleased to know two of your friends are with group and one lives nearby, Bob Levin,

and the other I saw and hear from regularly is George Rosenthal who lives in Clearwater, FL. Ken Finlayson.

Pinehurst, NC Francis, glad to receive the splendid article on the Victory Parade last year in Warsaw. It was a long awaited ceremony and one you can surely be proud of indeed. I have extracted some of the highlights to share it with our readers. The kind treatment and generosity of the Polish people to many of us will not soon be forgotten. Nor will my own thanks to you for your help in producing the Grand Tour. Sarah and Francis Longchamp.

Everett, PA George, thank you for your generous check for the P.F. Most interesting story of your capture in the Moselle area while on a recon mission. So pleased to be able to get you in touch with two of our mutual friends: Roy Smith and Chaplain Bob Scott. Good to hear that you and Cathy are making plans to come to Louisville. Looking forward to seeing you. George D. Thomas.

Wooster, OH Joe, thank you for your check to the P.F. Have spoken to Bill Hentges, your cousin here in Pinehurst, and he sends his best. He is enjoying his retirement from his law practice. Hope to meet him soon. Joseph Seringer.

Newport News, VA Thank you Brooks for your check and the fine article on Fort Hunt. You will find it in the latter pages of this issue. Also you were very thoughtful in sending the copy of Jerry Sage's obit in the Washington Post, too. Hope your schedule will let you come to Louisville in October. Brooks Kleber.

England, AK Billy, thank you for the P.F. check. Do recall you from Szubin. See if the cotton picking will let you come to Louisville in October. Want to see and visit with you. Billy Bingham.

Fayetteville, NY Ed, hope that you enjoyed Roads to Liberation by Clarence Meltesen. It is a very fine reference and I keep a copy nearby all the time. Have a couple out on loan as well. Send me the name of the fellow near you who was with us and I will get in touch with him and make him welcome to our group. Edgar E. Jones.

Columbia, SC Bill, spoke to Minnie, James B. Liles, last week. He sends his best and recalls your duty in Raleigh with the State Adjutant General, and hopes that you can come to the 30th Inv. Div. Tar Heel Chapter Reunion in the fall in Reidsville, NC. Bill and Dana Harrell.

Jamesbury, NJ Chuck, appreciate the check for the P.F. When you get a moment send me a note with your reactions to it. I suspect that you were on the same Odessa Trail. Charles H. Howell.

Northwood, IA Charlie, the delay in getting Henry's book was due to its being out of print. Have since reordered some copies. Hope that your check has cleared for you by now. Thank you for the P.F. check. I surely would like to hear the Luckenwalde story from by letter or when we get to Louisville. Your nice words of encouragement and support helps a lot, thanks. Charles L. Jones

Harrison, AK Garvin, many thanks for the generous gift of the copies of the musical and dramatic productions provided for us at Oflag 64. As soon as I got your package and fired off a letter to Tom Holt, that fine baritone, and heard from him real soon. For you and Bill Fabian's many friends it is:

1026 Santa Isable Blvd.  
Laguna, TX 78578

His daughter, a MD in Oncology in Overland Park, KS, kindly gave it to me. Garvin Fitton.

Memphis, TN Bob, while your nice long letter was addressed to Bill Cory back in 9/23/91, he forwarded it to me and it was pleasure to read. While it is true you missed the Norfolk and Colorado Springs meetings, Louisville should be a snap for you in October and I hope so. Craig Campbell is still around and I spent a part of a morning in mid March with Mary, Margie (his daughter), and John in Burke, VA. They are fine and I am sure will be pleased to read this note. Maybe someone told you but at the Norfolk meeting, your letter and the account of your interview with Herr Goebbels in Berlin was terrific. What a great story with such a fitting "put down" for one who surely deserved it. Bob Bonomi.

Oakland, CA Jim, thank you for your check for the P.F. Hope you will enjoy Henry's plain and no frills story of his endless trials with the Gestapo and SS as he tried so hard to do his duty for us. Am so delighted that you and the family are getting back on track since the loss of Betty. Also, real pleased that you and Jeff have sent your reservations off to Bill for the October event. Jim Sherman.

Atlantic, IA Mary, what a thoughtful and caring letter from back in March to me. Your kind remarks relating to John and me, our work and

interest in the Item, and our members were appreciated. I respect your request to have your name deleted from the mail roster but will wait a little while to do that. Realizing that your vision is not perfect, just ask a friend to read the Item to you. If you will give me your grandson's name and address at Duke I will try to see him for you on my next trip up there. Our best wishes. Mrs. Donald Wilkerson.

Grand Junction, CO Tom and Sue, thank you for the check for the P.F. and the order for Henry's book. Sure good hearing from you and keep up the good work. Let's try for Louisville in October. Tom and Sue Lawson.

Camp Hill, PA Herb, good to get your nice letter and the P.F. check back in March. Glad you are planning for October. Herb Johnson.

Columbus, GA George, thank you for your generous check for the P.F. You have likely found out already what a priceless reference The Roads is and a copy is close by my desk all the time. What a great effort Clarence. George Britto.

Mesquite, TX Leonard, hope the tornado last week did no serious harm to you or your property. It was a pretty wild one even so. Got a good feel for them in two tours up at Fort Sill. Leonard Spence.

Kunkletown, PA Jack, your very generous check for the P.F. was appreciated. Hope you don't mind my holding back in deleting your name from the roster until a bit later. While you have lost Ray Marnier, there will be some news of many others whom you served with and knew well. In my last visit with John in mid March, your name and Joe Barrett's came up in our lengthy conversation. Next time I come up to see him and Mary, I will try to go a little further north to see you and the Pawloski's. John P. Purtell

Albufeira, Portugal Eileen, I am at least glad I was able to reach you by phone in March after you called my daughter in Fairfax, VA. Cadiz was the very closest we could get and with bad rain and driving conditions, it wouldn't have been safe. Am pleased that you will come back to Virginia before long to be near your family. All our very best and I look forward to our next letter. Mrs. Larry Phelan.

Pinehurst NC Transition Update John Slack and I had hoped to make the total transfer of Oflag 64 Funds to me in early February. He and Mary had even planned to spend a few days with us in NC.

Unfortunately, she was hospitalized up in Gladwyne so the trip was delayed. However, in mid March we were able to get a meeting in at Burke, VA where his daughter, Margie, is located. And Mary was there too. Two weeks earlier, John had mailed by Express Mail the entire package of checks and cash. Upon my return they were deposited immediately. Some where written a while ago and by now we hope that they have cleared and your checkbooks are in balance. We ask your forgiveness for any inconvenience that we may have caused. We deeply appreciate the many P.F. checks that were sent to us from:

Jim Bancker  
Jim Bates  
Leo Bustad  
Maurice Chevalier  
Charles Davis  
John Davis  
Ruth Hossack  
Herb Johnson  
Jim Kanaya  
Martin Lawler  
Tom Lawson  
Clayton Metcalf  
Don Ohl  
Leon Spence  
Lewis Tankin  
L.T. Wilcox  
C.A. Williamson Family

### Recommended Reading

Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64  
by Clarence Meltesen

Ground Tour of Russia to Odessa, 1945  
by Herb Garris

Oflag 64 as I Recall It  
by Henry Soderberg

Help me, please, to reduce the inventory of the books above and let the P.F. grow.

Thanks,  
G.

# Former Polish Army Captain Tells Of Return Celebration

Here is his report:

I just returned from Poland after participation, as a W/W II combatant, in belated 47 years parade, on August 14-15-16 '92.

I served as a young Polish officer, in September 1939, when Hitler's Germany invaded Poland from air, land and the sea, without a declaration of war.

At the conclusion of W/W II in 1945, victorious Polish Forces fighting alongside Western Allies were not allowed to participate in the Victory Parade in London in May, 1945, because of Stalin's objections. (Yalta Agreement).

To acknowledge the contribution of the Polish veterans, the Congress of Poland, in cooperation with the Polish ex-Combatants Association in England, had sponsored a Victory parade for conquering Hitlerism and Communism.

The event was scheduled to take place in Warsaw, Poland on August 14-15-16 '92 at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Participating were veterans from all parts of the world—including those from Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, France, Holland, Italy, Norway and

other, some came also from Eastern countries, as far as Ukraine, Bielarus and Lithuania—summa-summa-riim, 23 countries, approximately 3,000 ex-Polish servicemen participated.

The Honorary Patron of this World Reunion of Polish veterans was the president of Poland—Lech Walesa, ex-Solidarity leader, recipient of the Nobel Prize in December 1983.

Those taking part in the events on 14-15-16 August, guests of honor, were, as follows:

President of Poland, the former Polish President in Exile, in London—R. Kaczorowski, Polish Army, the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Glomp, who celebrated a special mass in the Shrine of Czestochowa; Prime Minister of Poland, Madame Hanna Suchocka; Marshall of Polish Parliament, and a special guest of honor, the widow of the late General W. Anders, who commanded the 2nd Polish Corps and the Battle for Monte Cassino.

There were thousands of well-wishing, enthusiastic crowds applauding the parading veterans under the transparents of their respective

countries.

The "U.S. Group" received special tumultuous ovation (this is where I marched).

As a part of the ceremony, an officer of the 2nd Polish Republic (1918-39) handed over a sword to an officer of the III Polish Republic.

Three wreaths were laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (on Saturday, August 15) from: The President of Poland, Lech Walesa, the Polish Army Combatants World Federation, president Czeslaw Zychowicz from London.

This marks the symbolic return of soldiers of the 2nd Republic from the East and the West to a free independent Poland, and a reconciliation of all those who served Poland during W/W II.

The August Victory Parade A.D. 1992 terminated long march of the soldiers of the II Polish Republic which started in September '39 when Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Russia invaded Poland.

I am concluding my report with the quotation of a Polish writer who said: "The last fortress of the nation is its citizens' Heart—which is an unconquerable fortress."

Such is the history of my native country—Poland. Thousand years of Nationhood. Subjugation, Turbulence and Triumphs. The cycles never end. The Poles never give up.

They are free again, free after five years of Hitler's Germany's barbaric occupation and 45 years of brutal Communist rule.

It was the most jubilant manifestation of Polish People transmitted to the world—and I was there, with song in my heart.

May I also express grateful

thanks to the Organizing Committee, particularly Brig. Gen. Leon Komornicki from Warsaw, and Czeslaw Zychowicz, president of Polish Veterans Association in London.

Francis M. Longchamp  
Captain-Polish II Corps  
Pinchurst, N.C., U.S.A.

September 3, 1992



INTERVIEWED: Former Polish Army officer Francis M. Longchamp, a U.S. citizen since 1962, was interviewed by the media on the occasion of the dedication of the tableau of ex-military school (CWZ) in Grudziadz, Poland, August 13, 1992.

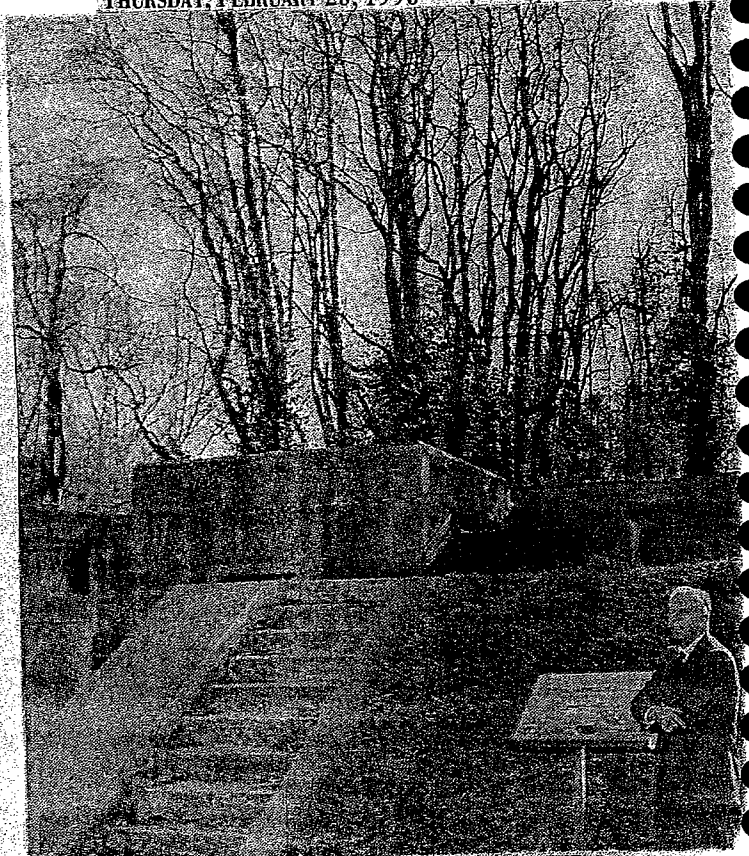
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50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OFLAG 64 EX-POW  
OCTOBER 7 THRU 10, 1993

AL CASNER  
HERB GARRIS  
SIDNEY THAL  
WILBUR & MARY SHARPE  
BOB & EVELYN OSHLO  
ORM & LIZ HESSLER  
ED & ELIZABETH BATTE  
JOE & RUTH AINSWORTH  
JOHN T. JONES  
BILL WARTHEN  
IRV YAROCK  
BILL & CAROLINE CORY  
BRAD BRADFORD  
MARVIN & FAYE CHEVALIER  
HAROLD & HELEN TALLMAN  
THURSTON GARRETT  
AL MOSS  
CURTIS & NORMA JONES  
DON GRAUL  
SLICK & DOROTHY CRAMER  
TONY & ROSE CIPRIANI  
GEORGE BRITTO  
DON & LUCY LUSSENDEN  
MATT & BEL SMITH  
DON & CASSIE WAFUL  
JOE SERINGER & JOANNE HAGAN  
JIM & JEFF SHERMAN  
JOHN & BETTIE STANSELL  
HENRY DESMOND & LOIS HARTMAN  
ROGER & RUBY CANNON  
GEORGE & VIRGINIA DURGIN  
JANE GRAFFAGNINO  
HERB & LUCILLE LITTMAN  
JIM & NAN MacAREVEY  
VIN & DONNA THOMSON  
LESTER & EDITH EDSALL  
GEORGE & BETTY HERR  
FRANK & LIZ DIGGS  
VINCE DiFRANCESCO  
ARTHUR & VIVIAN BRYANT  
BOOMER & CLEMENTI HOLDER  
MARTIN KEISER  
JIM & EMMY LOU BICKERS  
PAUL & LUCY LAMPRU  
BILL & PEGGY PATY  
JOHN RATHBONE  
LOUIS & ELIZABETH SALERNO  
WILLIAM & EVELYN KORBER

JOHN & MARY SLACK  
TED & ADELE PAWLOWSKI  
JERRY & MARJ ALEXIS  
BILL & JEAN GRAY  
JACK & LYNNE VAN VLIET  
WALTER & GLORIA HEISLER  
HARRIS & ELAINE MACHUS  
LEROY & LEILABETH IHRIE  
JAMES & HOLLY BATES  
JIM & JEAN YOUNG  
ROYAL & HARRIETT LEE  
BILL & DUNA HARRELL  
ED & PEG GRAF  
EDMON & BARBS RINEHART  
BILL & MARGARET FABIAN  
JOHN & ELAINE CREECH  
FRED & ELLA MAE MUELLER  
ALAN & LILO DUNBAR  
MARY BARKOVIC  
RITA KASPER  
CLIFF & MARY McKEON  
TOM & FORRESTINE HOLT  
JOSEPH & MARY BARRETT  
ROBERT & GLADYS THOMPSON  
RAY KLINKENBORG  
CHARLES EBERLE  
CARL & BARBARA CHRISTENSEN  
ROY & HELEN CHAPPELL  
JAMES & WIN BALL  
REID & LELA ELLSWORTH  
LEN & FLORENCE WARREN  
CRAIG & MARY CAMPBELL  
LEWIS & JANET LOWE  
ROLLAND & BETTE CORBIN  
JAMES & DORIS SHOAF  
DUANE KENNEDY  
ROD & EVELYN PEEPLES  
JOSEPH & SYLVIA FRIEDMAN  
JEROME (HORRIBLE) HATCH  
LUCYL SHIRK  
SAMUEL CARLICK  
VERRIS & ARLENE HUBBELL  
HERVEY & DOT ROBINSON  
GEORGE JUSKALIAN  
GEORGE & EVIE MUEHLBAUER  
THOMAS A MITCHELL  
JOE WARREN  
BILL & BESS BINGHAM  
STANLEY & DOROTHEA PETERS



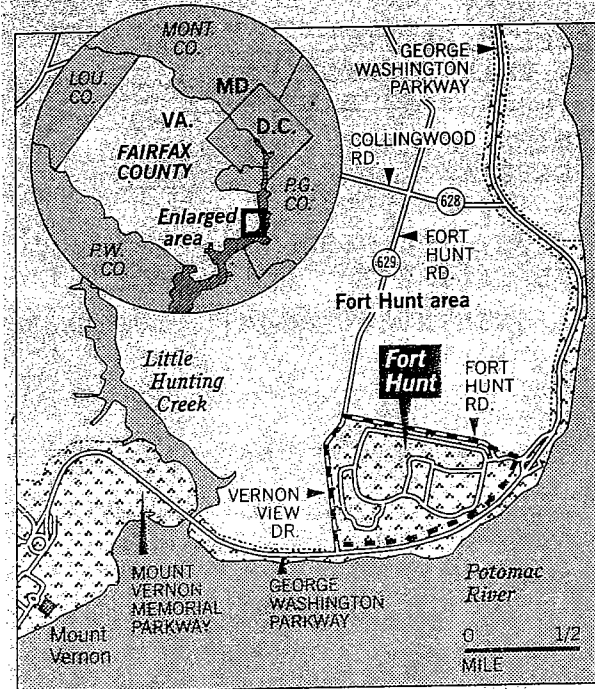
Lloyd Shoemaker, above, ran errands for the MIS-X operation in an unmarked truck. At right, the secret "escape factory" at Fort Hunt.



Walter Cini, who worked at the interrogation center,

BY DICK SWANSON—THE WASHINGTON POST

stands beside a bunker at Fort Hunt, now a park.



BY LARRY FOGEL—THE WASHINGTON POST

