

VOL. XXIX

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

SEPTEMBER, 1993

BELLEROSE, NY: Lorraine, thank you so much for your check for the Postage Fund and your reminder of the correct spelling of John's family name. I had high hopes of your making it to Louisville this year and thought of asking you to assist me as a roving reporter as for John last year. Please think about it. Sincerely,
Lorraine Glendinning

PALM COAST, FL: Jim, thank you very much for your nice note and the article from the June issue of EX-POW BULLETIN. It is very interesting and timely. As you read on, you will find another of our members who is enjoying a productive avocation here in North Carolina. You still have the same fine sense of humor that John Slack found in you fifty years ago. Glad that you and Doris will be with us in October. Jim Shoaf.

BLOOMFIELD, NJ: Paddy, what a nice note you sent me in late August. Glad you were able to locate Eddie Berlinski, whom many of our members recall played some very good football at NC State under Hunk Anderson whom Ye recruited from Notre Dame. Also, I'm grateful for your mention of Paul W. Hodnette to be added to our "deceased list". Your story parallels the one from Jerry Alexis who was a National Guardsman from nearby Pennsylvania and the 28th Infantry Division. Thanks again and keep up the good work, and I look forward to seeing you in October. Paddy M. O'Dea.

CENTREVILLE, VA: George, many thanks for your neat letter of August 22nd. It is obviously done on a computer, thank you for the nice remarks on the ITEM production, it is a two way street as I said in Colorado Springs last year and you have done your part.

Glad to get your input on the five names which included corrections and additions. Col. Drake had gone home before my arrival so I missed him, and regret that. What a distinguished record he held with the remarkable award of four DSC's. I am also delighted that you know Jane Graffagnino and we are so pleased that both of you will be in Louisville. What a lovely and thoughtful comment that you made on his behalf enroute to Parchim. Nice work, and looking forward to seeing you next month. George Juskalian.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Clarence, your note of August 30th came this week and thanks. First, I still have two copies of ROADS and they have been mailed to you, at no cost to you. I owe you so much already.

Your research on the Italian prison camps was not only promptly due but with the highlighter came out very clear. If you wouldn't mind, I'd like to extract certain portions of your nice letter to include in this Issue. Will have a neat surprise for our members to see and enjoy in the Hospitality Room. John Creech made the suggestion to have available some large maps of areas in which we traveled and it is a fine one. Our hearty congratulations on the progress that you have made on your new THE MEN OF OFLAG 64.

Our mutual interest in the Luckenwalde detour is of wide and serious interest and at the moment a dozen or more members have sent me some of their experiences. They will be expanded with the presence of Jane Graffagnino, George Juskalian and Bill Warthen.

Ruffin Redwine was taken in North Africa along with O. L. Bradford and they were members of the 1st Obsn. F.A. Bn. The reason that you may not have registered is that at that time he was a Staff Sergeant and later was commissioned and had a career from OCS as a reservist. Also, he never came to OFLAG 64 at all.

Looking forward to your report on the Ranger Rendezvous in Italy. Have a good time! Take care. Clarence Meltesen.

SEVEN LAKES, NC: Bob, I am so proud of your recent note to me and want to share it with all of our members in this issue. Many letters reach me each month in which writers show the importance of keeping busy. More especially as we grow older. Public or church service, while they may appear time consuming are often so rewarding. In addition, they are productive tracks and worthwhile causes. As a fellow alumnus of NC State, I join in my congratulations. We'll meet in Louisville in October. Bob Levin.

SAN RAFAEL, CA: Matt, many thanks for your check for the Postage Fund but also for the most touching article from the USMA ASSEMBLY on Gen. John K. Waters. It is very well written and deeply appreciated by all of us. Glad that you are planning to be in Louisville. Thank you again for the more recent note which assisted in the Memorial List. Matt C. Smith.

KNOXVILLE, TN: Charles, as I promised earlier to assist you on your research, here are some ideas. For the readers, Prof. Johnson is collecting data of all sorts on Tennessee veterans, and has expanded it to all veterans, and hopes to publish a book from his findings. He is The Director for the Study of War and Society with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. We only have 7 members in our group from Tennessee and when they read of your request and would like to assist you, they certainly may. Regret that you have a conflict at the dates of our Reunion. Our best wishes for you on a fine effort.

Dr. Charles W. Johnson
University of Tennessee
220 Hoskins Library
Knoxville, TN 37996-0441
TEL: 615-974-0128

RALEIGH, NC: Mary, I want to thank you so much for your notification of Woodley's recent loss to you. For the benefit of all our members who knew him, I have enclosed in this issue your thoughtful letter and his obit. What a fine person he was and our condolences. In case you want to write:

Mrs. Mary W. Warlick
3308 Rosebud Lane
Raleigh, NC 27607

LAKE CITY, FL: Janie, what a nice letter to us and the belated news of your father's death. We are so appreciative of the

effort you have made in our update of those we have lost. You certainly will remain on our mailing list. Your letter is found in this issue and for the benefit of those who knew and served with your father and who wish to write, the address is:

Mrs. Janie W. Richardson
P.O. Box 1476
Lake City, FL 32056-1476

HENDERSONVILLE, NC: John, thank you for your recent order and the assist to the Postage Fund. Your note to Cory reached me a short time ago and what a splendid suggestion you made to have some maps of some size on hand in the Hospitality Room with lamination for "show and tell". John Slack kindly agreed to assist with his resources in the lamination process and the maps have been mailed to him.

John, I suspect that among the Murphy gang that you mentioned was an Ernest Gruenberg, CAPT M. C., our Bn. Surgeon of the 377th PFA Bn. He had a somewhat similar experience that took him to Moscow and then to New York in the early days. Glad you and Elaine are coming. Many thanks. Elaine and John Creech.

COXSACKIE, NY: Len, thank you for your prompt note to me and the notification on Harvey S. Ford. Do hope you will reconsider joining us in Louisville. Thanks again. Len Warren.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA: Harvey, thank you for your very interesting letter relating to your recent visit up to Elmira, NY and to the Woodlawn National Cemetery. Your care and fascination regarding the treatment of the Union and Confederate prisoners is, to me, amazing. Neither side was very attentive, and yet the pure fact of life, as we can tell, is that those who held us had many other higher priorities. As you stated, it seems that the Andersonville Prison has gained more than its share of prominence. Know you enjoyed Pointed Post, NY and your visit to the Patterson Inn.

Sorry that you and Ann cannot come to Louisville but, hopefully, after the new hip replacement, you will be ready for The Sandhills and then Atlanta. Charles and Margaret Corbin send their very best. Harvey Patterson.

PADUCAH, KY: Sam, you have no idea how pleased I was to get your brief note. The good news is that you are well and we'll see many of the old friends in Louisville. It will be a great time. If you have Smitty's address up in Berwyn, PA, why not ask him to come. Thanks. Sam Garlick.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA: Brooks, each month as I move along with this elevated assignment as Editor of The Item and the receipt of so many nice letters, I constantly return to you and where we met there in Normandy. This recent note kindly reminded me that Ralph O. Tedeschi still plays a living role. Thank you, Brooks, and the many others who have handled this delicate task for me so well. By the way, since our last correspondence, a profile article on the 79th Inf. Div. Commander, Maj. Gen. Ira T. Wyche, was published in The Pilot. He returned here to his native home after retiring as The Army Inspector General, and when we came home in 1981, we had a number of pleasant hours together at his home in The Village. Brooks Kleber.

EL PASO, TX: Eva, thank you so much for your nice letter and the notice about your husband, Milton's, death. I share your interest in the American EX-POW'S. In fact, as this is being prepared, Robert Cheatham in Asheboro and I will attend a Brunch at the VA Hospital in Salisbury and they are to honor us there. Will send you a report of the event. Congratulations to you for your continued work in Milton's place with the organization. The names of John Cook and Maurice Bedwell have been added, thanks to you. Sincerely. Mrs. Eva J. Moore.

SAN DIEGO, CA: Grace, thank you for your correction on your husband's first name and your correct street address. Your's is one of many received this past month and all were in the best spirits. Best wishes. Mrs. Willard Duckworth.

PHOENIX, AZ: Reid, thanks for your understanding letter about your loss and your return to active duty. The note in which you told of the story about James "Red" Barry was great, so I will save it for you to use in Louisville. My best wishes. Reid F. Ellsworth.

LA GRANGE PARK, IL: Bob, welcome back! As I said to Reid above, your letter was such a good one with so many names and memories attached that I will show it off in The Hospitality Room with the chance for them to write you on those involved. Hope you can find a way to come and join us in Louisville. Sincerely. Bob C. Plummer.

HOUSTON, TX: J. T., thank you for the nice gift to the Postage Fund and your note and the addition of James Fraser. Surely some of our 1st Armd Div. friend will recall him as one of the 1st Armd Regt. Thank you again. J.T. Johns, Jr.

BATON ROUGE, LA: Gordon, it is always good to hear from you. Your check for the Postage Fund was welcome and

thanks. Spoke to Gen. Yarborough who lives here in Southern Pines, a short time ago. We had worked on zoning at one time. He is still very active in the community and is highly respected overall. Hope that your 507th Reunion will be a good one in Omaha. Also, thank you for the two names to be added to the list. Don and I. Graul sat together at the Norfolk Reunion and spoke of Col Millett in 1991.

On your trip to Bragg for the 501st PIR Reunion, just let me know the specific times. Ethelene and I look forward to seeing you again. In a separate letter, I will draw you a strip map and the telephone number as it gets closer. Wouldn't it be great if Bill Paty in Hawaii could come too!

Take good care of your eye and we are glad that the operation was a success. The cataract today is not too difficult. Our best to Marty. Gordon K. Smith.

WACO, TX: Paul, thank you for your nice check for the Postage Fund. Better still was your fine letter and the enclosure of a few pages from TWO HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE DAYS. That should make Francis Stevens and many others happy as they read your accurate and articulate account. Rather than include it in this issue in its complete form, as fascinating as it is, would you please send me a copy of the book, and that way I may be able to make a continued story in three or four issues. In your reply, let me know the cost and I will promptly send you a check. Thank you again for your thoughtful letter and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Paul Marable.

PITTSBURGH, PA: John, I thank you for your note and the check for the Postage Fund. Also, thanks for the news to me on Bert Goldman from your hometown and our loss. I am very pleased that you will be with us in Louisville and we'll visit some more. John "Slick" Cramer.

MARTIN, TN: Melissa and Floyd hope you received the order blank for your copy of The 50th Anniversary Book. Meanwhile, I have mailed your order on to Cory in Louisville since he is assembling the orders. Thank you both very much. Floyd Saxton.

ATLANTA, GA: Red, thank you for additions to the Memorial List and your nice letter. You have been so helpful. Will see you, Red and Peggy in Louisville. J.W. "Red" and Peggy Bancker.

MYSTIC, CT: J.K., welcome back and thank you for your nice card and your understanding. Appreciate the spirit with which it came. My best wishes. J. K. Cupit.

GROVE CITY, OH: Brad, thank you for your 2 letters and the connection you made for me at Bragg with the 1st Obsn F.A. Bn. Certainly thank you in addition for your assist on the Memorial List. They have been promptly corrected. Best wishes.
O.L. Bradford.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP, MI: Mary Jane, your card of August 20th came at the same time of Brad's note (above) in which the error of Steve was pointed out. I deeply appreciate your understanding and the correction has been properly made. Looking forward to seeing and visiting with you in Louisville.
Mary Jane Barkovic.

HOUSTON, TX: Ted, thank you for your letter and addition of Joe K. Emerson from Fort Worth to the list. It has been taken care of and I appreciate your consideration. If you can make it to Louisville, we all would appreciate it. Ted Roggen.

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR: Mervin, what a thoughtful letter of 8-31-93. Your news and recollection of my notes to Francis Stevens will warm his heart, just as it did mine. Please let's stay in touch and I will try to call him on my next trip to D.C., in a few days from now. The story of your most interesting correspondence with the German officer who had supervised the laying of the mine field in which you were pinned down was amazing. Rarely have I heard of any such contact aside from the reports in The Stalag Luft III group. They have even had some of the leaders in their camp in SAGAN southeast of SZUBIN, to come to reunions here in America. They were made most welcome and comfortable. Lew Otterbein, I regret to tell you has passed on. Marvin and Leah Danielson.

UPPER ARLINGTON, OH: Tuck, many thanks to you for your nice letter and the enclosed copy from the USMA ASSEMBLY of June '93 on General Waters. I imagine that your observations of him while you were a cadet in 1938-1941 period when he was your TAC are noteworthy. A copy of the article is found in this issue of The Item. Many thanks. Joseph Tuck Brown.

IOWA CITY, IA: Marvin, thank you for the note and the correct spelling of James Dervay for me. Glad to report that the mailing list will have your first name correctly. Don't be too harsh on John Slack and me since it dates us to recall the other Chevalier as well. See you in Louisville. Marvin Chevalier.

HEMET, CA: Mrs. Siercks, thank you for your card and the correct first name of your husband. That and the zip code are right now. Mrs. Herbert M. Siercks.

FREDERICKSBURG, TX: George, thank you for the nice letter and your check for the Postage Fund. Your reference to SAVING THE BREAKOUT sound real interesting and I hope to get a copy of it shortly and review it for our members. It will be of deeper interest to Clarence Meltensen who is well along on another story entitled THE MEN OF OFLAG 64. Your new address is noted and corrected. Glenn D. Chapman.

EVERETT, PA: George, thank you for the recent letter and the inclusion of Dorothy Richard's address. It will be corrected on the mailing list promptly. George, I am so glad to hear that you have daughters in D. C.. Yes, we will be down there in a few days and one time soon thereafter I would like to meet you there and visit. That is precisely how I was able to meet Margie Slack, Mary and John's daughter in Fairfax last spring.

I am sorry you won't be able to meet with us in Louisville. We'll think of you. George Thomas.

GROESBECK, TX: Edward, thank you for the nice catch up letter and the new address. The reunion in San Antonio was a while ago and we have missed hearing from you. The short note is very helpful and will be shown on the bulletin board in Louisville for your friends to get in touch with you. For those unable to come, it is:

Edward J. Fairchild (Billie)
Rt. 3, Box 170
Groesbeck, TX 19035

Have a nice trip to Benning and the OCS reunion shortly. If you find any of those there who may have belonged to Oflag 64, send their names and addresses to me. Best wishes. Edward J. Fairchild.

ASHEBORO, NC: Bob, that was some truly "Grass Roots" in action earlier in this month when your invitation of me to the V.A. Medical Center for their "Special Event". A copy of that program is shown in this issue. It shows the care and service that the V.A. does for our veterans there. The theme was to honor over 350 veterans and prisoners of war at a brunch as well as their guests. All parts of the program were professionally done. Surely the event was one that I witnessed the highest respect and patriotism to our flag, our country and its men bearing arms. Your volunteer work with these veterans and this institution on a weekly basis is commendable. We are proud of your effort. Looking forward to seeing you in Louisville.

Bob Cheatham.

P.S. After the final part of the service and the tree planting, Bob took me for a short visit through the center. We visited a few of the patients whom he had assisted and the courteous staff. The Chapel, with its beauty and worshipful air all of its own, was so very attractive. Bob gave me some items as shown.

WELLSBURG, WV: Tony, thank you for your check for the Postage Fund. You gave me an idea so that this afternoon a card to both Mouse Waldman and Curly Curtis was dispatched asking them to consider coming to Louisville. I hope that you will do the same.

More important and so timely are your well thought out corrections on The Memorial List and we are very grateful to you. Getting it just right takes time, it is worth the effort.

Tony and Rose, we are looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion.

Tony Cipriani.

RALEIGH, NC: Teresa, even though we have only spoken once on the phone, your nice letter was not only a surprise, but very appreciated. It reflects a comment in my sending you the book

review of THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY by James Waller, but more precisely, how deeply you felt about in your careful reading of it.

You surely made my day as the reviewer. I also thank you for help in my search for the only two covered bridges in North Carolina. Your letter is shown in this issue. Best of luck.

Teresa Watts.

SEVEN LAKES, NC: Bob, some long overdue recognition is hereby extended to you for some recent achievements of yours that our members will appreciate learning about.

The County of Moore here in the Sandhills of North Carolina has a large sector of people who are in need of food, rent and medical care and who have no resources to pay for them. The churches of the county have formed a Coalition which includes the municipalities of: Pinehurst, Aberdeen, Southern Pines, West End and the outlying areas. The goals include taking care of any emergency among these poor people. What a great reward it is to help those in distress.

Bob, we are so proud of you and your fine organization and its worthy cause.

Looking forward to seeing and your wife in Louisville.

Bob Levin.



John Knight Waters

NO. 9175 CLASS OF 1931

Died 9 January 1989 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., aged 82

Interment: Emanuel Episcopal Church, Glencoe, Maryland.

JOHN KNIGHT WATERS was born in 1906 in Baltimore, Maryland, the second of three sons. He grew up on a farm in the Greenspring Valley and attended schools in Baltimore. In 1925, he entered Johns Hopkins University as a pre-med student; however, after two years he decided that he wanted to become a soldier. Unable to secure a West Point appointment from Maryland, he drove to Champaign, Illinois. Sleeping on the floor of the State Capital, he qualified as a resident and entered the Academy in the fall of 1927. During his cadet career he played soccer, hockey and lacrosse and was selected captain of hockey during his final year. To top off his splendid record as a member of the Corps of Cadets, he was named First Captain of the Class of 1931.

Upon graduation, John was assigned to the 3d Cavalry Regiment at Fort Meyer, Virginia. While serving there he met and dated Beatrice Ayer Patton, the daughter of Colonel and Mrs. George S. Patton, Jr. She was to become his wife. During his Fort Meyer tour, John Waters participated in the so-called Battle of Anacostia, otherwise known as the Bonus Marchers incident. He did not care for this particular duty.

In 1934, John was transferred to the Cavalry School at Ft. Riley, Kansas and, upon completion, was assigned to the 13th Cavalry Regiment stationed there. It was also during this time that he married Beatrice. Graduating from the advanced equitation course at Riley in 1937, John was assigned to the Washington area as an aide-de-camp to President Roosevelt. This tour lasted but a year, and, as 1938 arrived, the Waters moved to West Point, where John was assigned to the Department of Tactics. Old grads still love to talk about their "A Co" tac, "Jake" Waters, the "spooniest officer on the post." During this tour both of the Waters sons, John K., Jr. and George Patton Waters, saw the first light of day.

In 1941, the Waters family departed West Point and moved to Fort Benning, Georgia, the home of the 2d Armored Division, "Hell on Wheels." John's first assignment was with the 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, and later the 3d Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment.

As the need for U.S. participation in World War II increased, the 1st Armored Division was marked for deployment, and, at the very last minute, Waters was transferred to the unit. Following a short shakedown in Northern Ireland, "Old Ironsides" was deployed to North Africa and landed near Oran in Tunisia. As the battle for Kasserine Pass heated up, Waters was assigned as commander of a task force on a hill known as Djebel Lessouda. Here, he was overrun by elements of the 10th Panzer Division, and, because his unit's position and status were revealed by a traitorous Arab herdsman, he was captured. Years later, as a guest of the Tunisian armed forces, Waters revisited Djebel Lessouda with members of his family.

John was interned at Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland. He remained there until early 1945, when the retreating Nazis moved the prisoners to a camp at Hammelburg. There, John, as senior

American officer, became camp commander and was responsible for organizing a chain of command as well as many committees, the least of which was the Escape Committee.

Meanwhile, John's father-in-law, General George S. Patton, Jr., and his Third Army were pushing towards the East. Learning of the American camp at Hammelburg, General Patton dispatched a Task Force, TF Baum, to liberate it. When word reached the Germans about the relief column, John was ordered to march the entire contingent of POW's to the railroad station for relocation to a safer camp to the East. As John, at the head of the column, with a white flag in his arms, made his way through the gate, a German deserter took them under fire, seriously wounding John and forcing the column back into the camp. Dr. Radijian Danich, a prominent Serbian surgeon interned in a neighboring camp, operated on John and saved his life. T. F. Baum subsequently entered the camp, but was unable to liberate the POW's. There were questions raised about this action and whether General Patton had known that his son-in-law was in Hammelburg. John always stated that he did not believe that Patton knew he was in Hammelburg. John was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions while at Hammelburg and during the ill-fated liberation attempt. He always maintained that it was the actions of his fellow P.O.W.'s that should have been recognized and that he was only doing his job. The wound received during the liberation attempt was a source of sickness for the rest of his life.

In early 1946, John Waters was returned to duty as aide to Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson. He attended Leavenworth in 1947 and from there was assigned to the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, graduating in 1949. He was selected Assistant Commandant of Cadets at West Point and, in 1951, was appointed Commandant. This was the last time a colonel would be assigned to that position.

In July 1952, Waters was promoted to brigadier general and went to Korea as Chief of Staff, I Corps. During this time, his wife Beatrice, who was living in Highland Falls, died suddenly. Returning home in 1953, a widower with two young sons, he was assigned to the Armored Center at Fort Knox as Deputy Commanding General. He was transferred to Fort Hood, Texas in 1954. There he served as Assistant Division Commander and Commander of the newly reactivated 4th Armored Division, which was destined for assignment to Seventh Army in Europe. He was promoted to major general in the fall of 1955 and selected as Chief of the American Military Assistance Staff in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. During this tour he was able to renew many old World War II friendships with the Serbians who had been interned with him at Hammelburg. Included in this group was Dr. Danich.

Completing his tour in Belgrade, Waters became Deputy Chief of Staff for Material Development at HQ Continental Army Command, Ft. Monroe, Virginia in 1958. He returned to Europe in 1960 as commanding general, 4th Armored Division and, upon promotion to lieutenant general, assumed command of V Corps in September 1961. At this time, John married Anne McKinley, the widow of Colonel W. D. McKinley, USMA 1937. In 1962, he returned stateside as commanding general of the Fifth U.S. Army. Following his selection to four star rank, he took command of CONARC in 1963, at Ft. Monroe, Virginia. In 1964 he

was named Commander and Chief, U.S. Army Pacific, and it was from this position that he retired in 1966.

John's decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Cross; the Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters; the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the European Theater Ribbon with two Battle Stars and one Arrowhead; the Korean Service Medal with three Stars; the French Croix de Guerre with Palm; and Honorary Commander of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

John Knight Waters was a true professional. Every inch of him looked, acted and talked like a soldier. Yet, he was unflinching in the caring of others. He would go out of his way to help a friend. His brother-in-law, George Patton, who served with, and under him, several times, called him "the most selfless officer I ever knew."

John died with dignity, choosing to undergo an operation to relieve his discomfort rather than possibly becoming a burden to someone else; always thinking of the other person. He did not survive this last operation. At his funeral, the widow of another Armored Force leader was heard to say: "There goes the last of the good guys."

Fiddler's Green welcomed John Knight Waters, General, United States Army, on 9 January 1989. His like will not be seen soon again.

John is survived by his widow Anne; two sons, John Knight Waters, Jr. and George Patton Waters, and four grandchildren.

John K. Waters, Jr. and George Patton Waters



John Knight Waters

Matt and Tuck, thank you both for your timely and thoughtful mailing this fine article to us.



"NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY PROGRAM"

To Remember the Sacrifices and Dedicated Service given for the Country by American Prisoners of War, Those Servicemen and Civilians Still Missing in Action, and Their Families During All War Eras.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center
Salisbury, North Carolina



Department of Veterans Affairs

GENE KONIK
Medical Center Director

1601 Brunner Avenue
Salisbury, NC 28144

704-636-3344 (C)
704-636-3800 (P)

Special Thanks to: VAVS Office - Betty Stracuzzi and Prissy Stowe
Toni Van Roekel - Photography
Rehabilitation Medicine Service
Medical Administration Service
Environmental Management Service
Recreation Therapy Service
Engineering Service
and all Services that have assisted in this Program today.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION PROGRAM

9:30 a.m.	September 10, 1993	Social Room
Presiding	Mrs. Nancy Perry Chief, Voluntary Service	
Presentation of Colors	South Rowan High School J.R.O.T.C.	
Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Charles Potat Am. Ex-POW, Adjutant/Treasurer	
National Anthem	Mrs. Nancy Jacobs	
Invocation	Chaplain Jack R. Marrow Chaplain Service	
*****BRUNCH*****	Catered by Chicken and Oyster Shack **30 Minute Break**	
Introduction of Special Guests	Mrs. Nancy Perry Chief, Voluntary Service	
Proclamation	Roy Hudnall, NC State Commander Ex-POW/MIA	
Introduction of Speaker	Mrs. Nancy Perry Chief, Voluntary Service	
Guest Speaker	Mike Hampton, POW/MIA Veterans Service Officer Winston-Salem OPC	
Special Comments	Patricia Ansbro, Ph.D. POW-MIA Coordinator	
"Priority POW"	Videotape Presentation	
Benediction	Chaplain Jack R. Marrow Chaplain Service	

Proceed outdoors to Tree Planting Ceremony,
Field Adjacent to Building 42.

Ex-POW Representatives, Mike Hampton,
Eugene Konik, Medical Center Director
Nancy Perry, Chief, Voluntary Service
Guests

They didn't volunteer to become POW'S
or MIA'S. They volunteered to Defend
Values in which American Patriots Have
Always Been Willing To Defend and
Protect: The Values which make up
what we call

"Civilization."

And For That We Salute Them.



2513 Peachtree Rd. NE
Atlanta Ga

COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

Atlanta Ga

June 27, 1945

Atlanta Ga

Dear Mr. Cheatham

Your letter came as I was leaving home to come on this two-weeks trip to visit my only sister who bottles Coca-Cola here. Her husband was drafted and she carries on the work. I was so thrilled to get the news you sent me. I had no idea how many men were at 64. At that time I had not had a letter since Sept 10 from Wright. My Mother has sent me two from 64 since I left and three from the hospital staling 1x C where he was before that. Wright was Clemson 26 and has been on the Journal in Atlanta ever since 27. His father lives at Clemson. I am sending him your letter. Bread's letter Lt. Fisher sent to Mrs. La Chance in Phoenix City Ala and I also heard from Judy in Red Oak Ala that her husband was in 64. I met a Mrs. Amon Carter in NY whose son Amon Carter Jr. has been in 64 since it was opened. Her husband owns the Fort Worth paper. I will get the address of Lt. Fisher in the Sun (NY). I met Harry Allen in NY and spent a morning talking to him. He thinks they have moved 64 into central Germany. They sure do seem hungry and the reason is the RC parcels had about given out. I am glad the Christmas ones got there. I hear from Mrs. Carter that General Patton's son in law is the American head of the camp at the moment. Do you know anything about sending parcels from Canada oftener than we can from here.

Thank you so much for your letter and please let me know when you hear they have been moved and anything you know about the boys. Of course pray that my husband will be repatriated as a non-combatant as is his right by the Geneva convention.

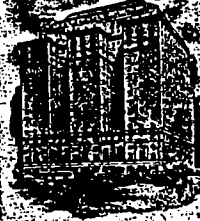
Cor dially yours,

Ellen Newell Bryans
Mrs Wright Bryans

Ellen Bryans' Letter to Bob's Dad in reply to his as the march proceeded.

U. P. Larry Allen's Letter to Bob's Writer Dad upon his arrival in New York and his repatriation.

Bob's Christmas Letter to his Parents 1944.



The ROOSEVELT

MADISON AVENUE AT 45TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, NY

June 26, 1944

My dear Mrs. Cheatham:

Thank you for your

letter.

I know your son well and am happy to tell you that he is in good physical condition, and is keeping busy with educational studies and sports.

He now has enough clothing but I strongly recommend that you send him all the food that you can. We get the weekly Red Cross food parcels but all the prisoners need more food.

Also send him whatever books and cigarettes are permitted. What he doesn't use himself, he can often trade with the German guards and get money for.

With kindest regards
Larry Allen

Kriegsgefangenenpost
Correspondance des prisonniers de guerre

9
Schriftl. Post Postkarte Carte postale
ABREVILLE

WRIGHT BRYANS
16 NORTH ME & MRS. P. W. CHEATHAM

Abteilung 1
Vor- und Zuname: *W. P. CHEATHAM*
Geburtsdatum: *1911*
Geburtsort: *U.S.A.*
Militär: *U.S.A.*
Kriegsland (Allies): *U.S.A.*

Abteilung 2
Lagerort: *ABREVILLE*
Strasse: *SOUTH CAROLINA*
Land: *U.S.A.*
Lagerungsnummer:

Kriegsgefangenenlager
Camp des prisonniers

Datum: *DEC 27 1944*
date:

DEAR DAD - ANOTHER CHRISTMAS HAS PASSED & I THINK THAT IT WAS MY BEST IN THREE YEARS BECAUSE I EXPECTED SOMETHING DIFFERENT - SONG THE MESSIAH HAD A CHESTRO LOVE ANGELE IT WAS SO AND THE GEE GEE SONG CAROL SING CHURCH SERVICE VERY GOOD THOUGH LOVE,

September 7, 1993

Dear Mr. Herb Garrie

Mrs. Wright Bryan enjoyed receiving and reading Post Oflag 64 Item. There was an error made however when you printed her letter and address in Atlanta. Her correct in Atlanta is

Mrs. Wright Bryan
 Lenbrook Square Apt. 516
 3747 Peachtree Rd. NE
 Atlanta, GA 30319-7136

Thank you
 Susan Mueller, Secretary

I say ditto to the above
 O.S. Bryan to Mrs. Mueller

Ellen Bryan
 Keep up all your good work!

Ex-POW Stays Young

by Leo F. Bach
64 Rivers Edge Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32137

Perhaps you recall the witticism, "You don't make friends, you recognize them." Now my own quip, "You meet the damndest people in Publix!" — where it was my good fortune to encounter one James Shoaf, an enterprising "youngish" man of age 75, whom I soon found was much too busy to ever get old.

At his Palm Coast home the next day, I learned he is an ex-prisoner of war, member of a dozen clubs, active in veterans affairs, experienced in plastic and electronic engineering with his own company, plus being a notary, tax preparer, photographer, distiller, and owner of several patents.

But specially engaging are his horrendous tales of prison camp experiences of World War II. As the compound doors slammed with a clamor at his first moments in the German enclosure, his Baptist training supplied words from the book of Job: *My days are swifter than a runner, they slip away like an eagle that swoops on its prey.*

These he repeated daily in the hope and faith his incarceration would not be too long in the German prison of western Poland, called Oflag 64. It was well he could not foresee the next 27 months of extreme hardship and despair, sickness, cold and starvation, lice and torture, depression and always the barbed wire. But all through it, a prevailing courage and nobility, and faith in God.

Captain James Shoaf was included among the first 100 officers to be imprisoned in Tunisia; by the time of his release, this figure climbed to 1200, many from the biggest conflict, Battle of the Bulge.

Oflag 64 was a large prison, 900 by 1200 feet, with eleven guard towers surrounded by three high barbed fences. No escapes were attempted in winter because of the remote isolation of the wilderness and bitter cold and no place to go. There were tales of some bold attempts, however.

One skullduggery of the prisoners was repeating the alert "The bird is going to sing", whereby they could now receive a BBC broadcast, imminent over a secret camp radio. Some of their message system was obtained by use of their radio crystal sets we knew in the 1920s. Ten months before his capture, Shoaf was given special security training, in remote chance of being taken prisoner one day. They found places to hide equipment (one tube set) most daringly, in haystacks, manure piles, pigpens, cellars, and in one prisoner's bagpipe. For outgoing mail, guileless plain postal cards were used, with the first letter of each fifth word carrying a message!

"How about your food, Jim?" I asked. With his myopic squinty eyes and a smirk, his reply was, "Our fare was ersatz coffee, dry bread from burnt barley; also watery cabbage soup and potatoes. If you saw a pig's eyeball

EX-POW BULLETIN, JUNE 1993



James Riley Shoaf II

pooping at you from the soup, you knew it was your meat for the week!" This facetiously. His weight dropped from 125 pounds to only 95. Red Cross and food packs from home were delayed and often dried out or damaged.

Typical of the disasters of war are the casualties and Jim landed in a hospital when his jeep suffered total destruction; saddest of all was that his wife was notified of his being killed in action. Twice the Purple Heart was awarded to him, once for an arm and elbow wound, and once for abdominal surgery.

"More critical was the boredom," Jim said. "The mental stress; we used to call it battle fatigue. It required steady attention, even through my later years. So as a safety measure I take lithium carbonate, so it won't recur." All in all, a debauching, trying epoch, a murky period of survival. There were few atheists in Oflag 64, and many became devout Christians, according to Jim.

So these fifty-odd years have given us much time for discourse and contemplation. General Patton claimed we shall always have wars; a sad reflection for all the veterans and kindfolk who lost so much through the years. We should salute and acknowledge everyone who accepted his or her responsibility to answer the call, and pay homage to the ex-prisoners of war who receive almost zero public notice. There are thousands of them, with only their service serial number for being recognized.

While there are still some able WWII's with us, a special attempt should be made to specially exploit their acquaintance, with a resultant fulfillment for all.

As for Jim Shoaf, I hope any nightmares will never be worse than that of the congressman who woke up dreaming he was spending his own money! I'm sure that his innumerable interests will be the answers to many more fruitful years of noble, zestful living.

And instead of viewing the depleted, exhausted features of shoppers at the grocery checkout counter, I'll be looking for the inspired personality of another Jim Shoaf, eagerly waiting to take over with the grocery cart Mrs. Shoaf has dutifully and faithfully filled.

A recent short letter from Ellen Bryan for our information.

Jim, what a fine tribute to you for setting such a good example. Our best wishes.

M. Herb Gallas
Post Oflag 64 Item
P O Box 1693
Pinehurst, NC 28374

*George,
I well stated,
I thank,
I think*

Dear Herb:

May I compliment you on the format and content of the Post Oflag 64 Item. You're doing a great job for which all of us, I am sure, are grateful.

With respect to the list of deceased members, may I offer the following corrections or additions for what they are worth:

Thomas D. Drake, adding the middle initial.
Wilfred F. Farrell, in place of William Farrell. (His name also appeared on page 6.)
James L. Norwood, in place of Joseph Norwood.
Donald B. Stewart, in place of Dan Stewart.
John K. Waters, in place of John C. Waters.
Add James W. Barker, who was one of my roommates.

I doubt that many of our fellow POWs know that our first Oflag 64 Senior American Officer, Col. Thomas D. Drake, was one of the most decorated of American Servicemen. He was awarded our nation's second highest medal for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, four times, the third highest medal for valor, the Silver Star, four times, the Purple Heart twice, plus several other American and foreign decorations.

I am delighted to learn that Peter Graffagnino's widow, Jane, will be at the reunion in Louisville. Although she and I come from the same hometown, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, we have never met. I am looking forward to meeting her in Louisville if I can make it. (I am still recovering from recent surgery.)

My reason for mentioning Mrs. Graffagnino is this: An Armenian-American publisher in San Francisco is preparing a book about the experiences of a number of Armenia-American veterans of World War II. I am among them. In my autobiography, I have recounted the long march from Szubin to Parchim. One paragraph is devoted to our humane and heroic medical officers which should be of special interest to Mrs. Graffagnino. Here it is:

"Throughout the ordeal our own American doctors were magnificent - selfless, dedicated, and seemingly indefatigable. To this day, I don't know how they did it. They were exposed to the same cold, hunger and fatigue. Yet at the end of each weary day when the rest of us plopped down from sheer exhaustion, they held 'sick call' to minister to our physical and sometimes psychological needs. The image of Doctor (Captain) Peter Graffagnino, now deceased, comes vividly to mind. May God rest his weary body and selfless soul."

Again, my compliments and best wishes to you. And I hope I'll be able to make it to Louisville to see you and all the others.

6604 Ashmere Lane
Centreville, VA 22020
August 22, 1993

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Sincerely yours,

George
George Juskaian

that I had my sunglasses on because tears were running down my face!

I just wanted to thank you for recommending "Bridges" to me because I found it to be very meaningful. When Mr. Waller publishes his new book you will have to let me know your opinion on it.

NORTH CAROLINA

19 July 1993

Best regards,

Theresa Watts

Dear Dr. Garris,

I just wanted to let you know that I finally got around to reading The Bridges of Madison County this summer. I happened upon it at the library before I went to Wrightsville Beach for a few days. While I was out on the beach I read it in about 2½ hours. It was a very sweet and tender story and I thought it had beautiful imagery. I was glad

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Mrs. Janie W. Richardson
Post Office Box 1476
Lake City FL 32056-1476
904-752-0950

August 9, 1993

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your note acknowledging my book order. I am really looking forward to reading the book and especially sharing it with my children.

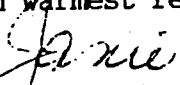
You asked about my dad and step-dad. My daddy was Edwin O'dell Ward, who was a Lt. and a prisoner of war in Oflag 64. He was captured with General John Waters group and he and my mother, Mildred Ward, attended several of your reunions and loved them. Mama even attended after Daddy died in 1975. General Waters was instrumental in getting a service connected disability established for Daddy before he died. I have lots of pictures that were taken of Daddy and his group while in Germany....some playing basketball and hockey in deep snow. I have Daddy's diary and all of the scrapbooks Mama kept while he was a POW. I am quite proud of him and amazed at what all of you went through and survived.

After Daddy died in 1975, Mama continued to correspond with several of the POW families. One of those was Lt. Col. Kenneth A.L. Johnson. They were married in 1981 and lived in Honolulu, Hawaii until cancer struck Mama and they moved to Gainesville, Florida to be nearer to all of us. Mama died in 1987 and Ken chose to stay near us in Gainesville. I looked after him and his affairs until he died in August of 1991. I was the executor of his estate which is how I eventually came into contact with you because all of his mail was sent here to me. His son, Rev. Donald K. Johnson in Honolulu, Hawaii, has all of Ken's address books and I had assumed that he had notified Oflag 64 of Ken's death. When I discovered that he had not, I notified you folks. I wish I had known sooner so I could have sent a timely copy of Ken's obituary. He was a fine man and lived a very difficult life with his rheumatoid arthritis. We all really admired him.

So, you see, I have 2 Oflag 64 connections. I have a husband and 2 sons and hope to someday have the privelege of attending an Oflag 64 reunion in Daddy and Ken's honor. Oflag 64 was so special to both of them. I also have a tape that Ken gave me of the little band that was formed and played while in prison camp. It is hauntingly beautiful!!!

Thanks, again, for your interest and reply. God bless and be with all of you.

With warmest regards,


Janie Ward Richardson

P.S. I hope you will keep me on your mailing list. I enjoy reading about folks that I have heard Mama and Daddy talk about through the years even though I've never met them!

LADIES LIST - 1900 - 1993
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