

VOL. XXXIV

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

DECEMBER, 1994

OFLAG 64

The Fiftieth Anniversary Book

HERE IS the final report on our big 50th Anniversary Book by its editor, Frank Diggs:

We want to wind up the Book project by correcting a misapprehension about the sales. There was no "lack of great success" in sales of the \$50 Book. To the contrary, nearly every single active kriegy bought at least one; many bought 2, 5 or 6.

Here is how the final figures add up --

A total of 440 books were bought at the full price and another 10 were sent out for promotion purposes. This nearly equals the total number of kriegies on the Item's mailing list, including many widows.

Moreover, it is more than twice the number of active kriegies who attend the annual reunions from time to time, about 200 including wives and widows. This far exceeds our hopes for sales of a \$50 book.

The three of us who put the Anniversary Book together are more than pleased that the overwhelming majority of our fellow kriegies bought the thing--and that they seem to think we did a good job with it.

The copies remaining on hand come to about 290, only because we needed to print over 700 books to keep the price much below \$100. The plan was to sell the remaining copies to a central purchasing office for military schools and veterans' hospitals. But it turned out that there is no such animal, and no library pays \$50 for a book these days. So, there are a few copies left over. If you would like one, just send a check to Bill Cory, 2843 Brownsboro Rd., Louisville, KY, 40206. FD

Arlington, VA: Frank, thanks for your consent to make this report available to us.

MAPLE SHADE, NJ: Joe, we appreciate a decision that you, supported by Mary, just made after plenty of thought was applied. Your agreement to handle two very important facets of the ITEM for its continued success, the fiscal monies and the flow of news, is so vital to the coverage. In a few days, a bank account will be opened in a convenient place to you so you may receive all the checks that flow in marked for The Postage Fund. The account in Pinehurst will be closed and the remaining funds there will be transferred to your control. The payment of work done by the Guest Editors will be made as they submit their remittance bill or vouchers. The most important one, obviously, is the Production Manager, John Slack. As the issues of the ITEM are published and mailed, he usually sends the cost in an invoice form and payment has been a high priority always. The second part of the mail is to open it and see if there are any checks inside and make a note on the envelope and deposit them. Then, scan the letters and, by at least once a week, forward them to the scheduled Guest Editor, where the work can begin on the final copy which is sent on to John Slack. The first editors are: Don and Lucy Lussenden, Livonia, MI., and then Tom and Sue Lawton in Grand Junction, CO. With many thanks!
MR. JOSEPH F. BARRETT, JR., 22 WOODBINE AVENUE, MAPLE SHADE, NJ, 08052.

WHISPERING PINES, NC: Carl, a not*of thanks to you and Barbara for the fine assist that you have provided both on the computer and typewriter to update our constantly changing mailing list. Soon the address stickers will be done by him as well. A slight change is noted from the October ITEM. To please keep a correct and recent address or losses in need of report please write to: Mr. Carl Christensen, 9 Pine Ridge Drive, Whispering Pines, NC, 28327.

LONDON, ENGLAND: Ken, thank you for the very interesting book that you sent to me. It was written by a friend of Ken's who was captured in Calais, France in May, 1941 as part of the British Army evacuation from Dunkirk. The title of the book is: For the Love of Elizabeth, his new bride of about a month before. Many of the readers will know to some extent where he was finally sent in Poland: Stalag VIII B, called Lamsdorf or Gorlitz. He was made slave labor in a quarry nearby.

David is fine and we will see him on the 22nd. Our greetings to you. KEN FINLAYSON.

WELLSBURG, WV: Tony, thank you very much for your nice note and the check for the Postage Fund. We were sad to hear at Fort Worth of the loss of your brother. How you and Rose held your composure so well that evening is amazing. With our prayers and best wishes! TONY CIPRIANO, 103 TENTH STREET, WELLSBURG, WV, 26170.

CENTREVILLE, VA: George, thank you for the very thoughtful card and your kind remarks about the ITEM. Ethelene is doing fine and we will be up to D.C. on the 22nd to 27th of December. Will call you! We did miss you in October but fully understand the obligation that you had with AMER EX/POW and its higher priority. Only by close inspection of the 50th Anniversary Book would you, perhaps, know that George was the initial

Editor of the Oflag 64 ITEM from December, 1943 to June, 1944. Best wishes. GEORGE JUSKALIAN.

HIGHTSTOWN, NJ: Anne, thank you for your check for the Postage Fund and your address change from Missouri. This brings you back East and close to the children near Rutgers. Thanks for your remarks about the ITEM. All the best to you and your family.
MRS. WILLIAM (ANNE) RUDEL.

BETHESDA, MD: Vincent, thank you very much for the newsy letter of 11-14-94. The best news is the rapid recovery that you have made in the past five months. Sorry to hear about Mary's fall and the shoulder fracture. Hope she is on the mend by now. We missed you at Fort Worth, yet I am sure that the Pentagon Armistice ceremony went very well for you. Then the honor and recognition you received at Quantico Marine Base is great news. p.

In looking back, no obit came in on Mays Anderson and I do thank you for sending it to us. Made contact with the family in Mapleton, UT. They seemed so appreciative - especially of you. VINCENT DI FRANCESCO.

MAPLETON, UT: Kay, good to speak to you recently and to get the assist we needed with the obit for your Dad, Mays Anderson. Our love and condolences to you and the family. MRS. BRENT (KAY) SUMSION. P

KERRVILLE, TX: Bob and Nina, thank you for your recent nice note and the follow-along note about where our readers may get The Spivey Book. I surely enjoyed it and know many others will. A review will shortly follow. However, a short note is enclosed. Thank you for the Postage Fund check and best wishes. BOB AND NINA WEISBERG.

AUSTIN, TX: Walter, this is a follow-up on my earlier note to you. Thank you again for the check to the Postage Fund.

By now I expect that you may have had a response to your nice acknowledgment of Peter's work on The Wint Scene, which I enjoyed as well. With best wishes.
DR. WALTER S. PARKS, JR.

SAN ANTONIO, TX: Henry, thanks for your note and the card as well. Your 106th Inf. Div. was cut up pretty badly in The Bulge. Will do as you asked me on the mail out. If later on you want it or if you have some news to send us, let me know. Let's stay in touch.
HENRY H. MCKEE.

NEW YORK, NY: Paul, by now a copy of the October ITEM must have reached you. What a joy it was to hear anything about you in over 50 years dating back to the spring of 1945 at Odessa. (Paul was on the staff of Major General Deane, Head of the Military Mission in Moscow and led the repatriation Team there on the Black Sea.) PAUL S. HALL.

LAWTON, OK: Martin, a short note to thank you for the recent letter and the Fort Sill News with the 100 Anniversary of the Apaches. They resided on the Post

and now they have a small School and Reservation near the Post. Wish you the very best. MARTIN HEISLER.

FORT KNOX, KY: David, our congratulations on the recent and prestigious award you received as The Field Grade Officer Instructor of the Year for excellence. p. 6
A copy of the citation was sent to me when I picked it up in a recent Army Times. You will find it in this issue.

(For those who attended the 1993 Reunion in Louisville, you will recall the Outstanding Memorial Service we had, and it was this officer who conducted it so professionally.) Our best wishes for your continued success as a remarkable Army Chaplain. CHAPLAIN (MAJOR) DAVID E. BATES.

GRAND JUNCTION, CO: Tom, thank you for the research that you did after the Fort Worth Reunion of the two losses that you knew of. They have been placed in this issue and while long overdue, we still care.

In a day or so, I will send you some draft notes in a p. 7 package of my preparations for this issue. Will do the same for Don and Lucy, who are up next as Guest Editor. Hope it may give you a better insight on how it is done.

Your pretty card came with all pride brimming on it about lovely Colorado. We knew it from years ago when Ethelene's sister married to a USAF Officer lived with NORAD at Colorado Springs. Please keep in close touch. Best wishes. SUE AND TOM LAWTON.

CHARLOTTE, NC: Gene, thank you for the nice letter which came this week. Ethelene and I both appreciate the kind thoughtfulness which is so well shown in you. Both you and Rose strike me as a very caring couple. We join you in a speedy recovery from the dizzy spells which Charles Poteat told me a little about. Want to get you well enough to travel to Atlanta in 1995. We will have a time there and I want to take you down to Fort McPherson for a visit. That is where Ethelene made her debut as the wife of a General's Aide. Never had such a great time and learned so much from a great mentor, Gen. Ted Brooks. Warm Holiday Greetings. CHAPLAIN (DR.) EUGENE L. DANIEL, JR.

BLOOMINGTON, IN: Hilda, many thanks for the very nice long letter which came yesterday. We both read it and appreciated the almost parallel routes that we are following with some unusual illness. We will keep in touch and hope to hear of a rapid improvement in your husband's condition. Ethelene is much better now.

The report on the dilemma your book sponsors are facing reminds me of the somewhat similar mess that is brewing at The Smithsonian over suitable display and a narrative on the Role of the Enola Gay. It will have to really be worked over from the format to be very acceptable as it prepares to make its tour across the United States. I hope that for you some sort of resolution can be made for your book, Blitzkreig of Books. It is truly a one of a kind study. It unfortunately steps on the toes of many too closely associated with the Hitler followers who do not want the truth to be told about those trying and heartless days with the S.S. and the Gestapo running loose. I stand firmly behind my review and your reputation to report correctly with a great deal of elegance. Season's Greetings.
DR. HILDA V. STUBBINGS.

LIVONIA, MI: Don and Lucy, thanks for your nice check for the Postage Fund and we also appreciate your neat reporting job on the actions you observed at our Reunion in Fort Worth. It was well done! I suggest that the both of you will have no trouble with the ITEM. As I said above to Tom and Sue, in a day or so, you will get some rough drafts of how this issue was done to guide you. Call me at any time to ask for an assist. I'll be glad to hear from you. Season's Greetings. DON AND LUCY LUSSENDEN.

BALTIMORE, MD: Gottfried, I regret that in the October ITEM it was inadvertently large and it failed to include your kind letter written to me about that time. They are indeed so germane to you and us that they are hereby reproduced in this issue. Am so proud that John recalled you and put me on the trail. p. 5

It gives a poignant insight on Our Commandant Oberst Schneider and the Lead Translator and Interpreter Hauptmann Zimmerman as seen by the eyes of a young soldier in their offices. It is very well done.

An amazing similarity appears with my own interest in the same principles which you, like I, have held dear and taught for years.

Finally, you will be pleased to know that Leroy and Leilabeth Ihrle attended the Reunion in Fort Worth and wrote me just a few days ago. Warm regards and A Fröhliche Weihnachten! DR. GOTTFRIED DIETZ.

BIRMINGHAM, MI: Vic, thank you very much for the book order and the check for the Postage Fund. Sorry that you could not come to Fort Worth. Let's try for Atlanta in 1995. Best wishes. VICTOR KANNERS.

NORTHFIELD, VT: Jerry, thank you for the check to John for the Postage Fund. Good seeing you and the kind of support that you gave us at Fort Worth.

I love your hometown and though it was only one visit to hear a Norwich Graduate, LT GEN Ted Brooks, to speak to the cadets, it was one real treat. How a school that small can continue to turn out the fine military officers over the years amazes me. Hope that one day it will be my pleasure to get back up there and let you show me around. Season's Greetings. JEROME R. HATCH.

ROCKFORD, IL: Bob, many thanks for the check for the Postage Fund that you sent to John. Always enjoy seeing you and Gladys at the reunions, especially at the last one. Did you get a chance to spend a little time with Carl Bedient this year? Season's Greetings. BOB ASCHIM.

MONTEZUMA, IA: Les, good seeing you this year in Texas. You don't seem to make many of them. Keep it up and try to make Atlanta in 1995. Thanks for the Postage Fund check to John. Best wishes. LEE CLINGAN.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Clarence, the much talked about book which has taken over two years of research and preparation is almost out! It will appear in about the size of THE ROADS TO LIBERATION FROM OFLAG 64, and will run about 141 pages.

Over the years most of us have found that there are about three main ways that you can recall the friends that you made at Szubin. They are by name or nick name, the unit to whom they belonged and, more likely, the branch of service in the Army they were a part of, and finally, the direction which was followed on the cold wintry morning of January 21, 1945 as well moved out on the exit march. This small book has these essential facts in his draft copy, he so kindly let me have. It is not a story and was not intended to be but a book for rapid reference.

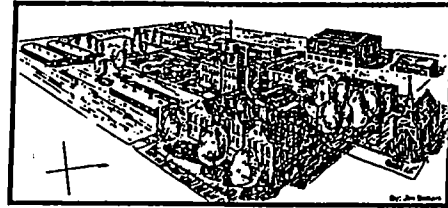
You recall the many hours in the respective Hospitality rooms of the recent Reunions that is spent poring over the Official Camp Roster so meticulously maintained by Charlie Jones and Kermit Hansen in the S-1 Office. My copy is getting dog-eared from the heavy use and this book of Clarence's might be a fine substitute. Already in the preparation of the issue of the ITEM, I found it very helpful and am sure you will.

His first edition will be about 100 copies with a hoped for price in the range of \$15.00. At my suggestion, you will find, thanks to Jim Biggers, our distinguished artist, a small view of the Oflag, which Jim also allows us to use on the masthead of the ITEM. Many thanks, Jim. The printer under consideration and Clarence have many issues to face but it does look very promising.

If you have an interest in getting a copy, Clarence would deeply appreciate a post card at your earliest convenience. We wish you well and thank you for sharing with me a copy of the draft. CLARENCE MELTESSEN, 810 Gonzalez Drive, Apt. 4-D, San Francisco, CA, 94132 (Tel: 415-584-0389).

THE MEN OF OFLAG 64
August 1943 - January 1945

Clarence R. Meltesen
Lt Col USA Ret



OFLAG 64 PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

OCTOBER 1994

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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
Baltimore, MD 21218-2685

Shown below are some extracts from a letter from Gottfried Dietz to Your Editor dated 20 October 1994. The October issue was already to go to press and therefore, it is being carried in this issue.

There is so much depth and feelings portrayed in his regard for the two seniors to him at Oflag 64 that it should be of great interest.

Oberst Schneider, while a highly disciplined Prussian (I think his family had big landholdings in Pomerania and were Junkers, a name given to the big landowners east of the Elbe River) was a very human being. I remember when in December, 1944 I had telephone duty hearing him refer to two German deserters who had been caught as "unglückliche Menschen" (unfortunate beings, men out of luck) without really criticizing them. An old Imperial officer (like Rommel), who had lost a leg in WWI, he did not seem to have much sympathy for Hitler's movement.

Hauptmann Zimmermann's membership in Hitler's party can perhaps be explained by the fact that his home was in Bayreuth, Richard Wagner's home in the last years of this life, where he built his Festspielhaus, in which Hitler attended performances every summer before he went to war. To us Dolmetscher Hauptmann Zimmermann was always kind. As security officer, he was strict but emphasized that this was warranted in view of the previous break-out through a tunnel by the British POW's. From one of my comrades (my own rank was PFC), I learned that he feared that the lack of security might prompt a takeover by the SS Units, especially after Himmler had become the Head of the Ersatzheer following the Putsch of July 20, 1944. Hauptmann Zimmermann was mortally wounded in the air attack by American planes that also killed American Prisoners of War.

Reading "Oflag 64 of 1943-45" brought back many memories. From the entry about you, I learned that you used the library. So did I with the kind help of LT Leroy Ihrie. These were actually the first American books I read. They increased my interest in America. Later, I wrote my doctorate dissertation under Alpheus T. Mason at Princeton On The Federalist Papers. My course here on American Political Thought has always been very popular. I also taught it several times at the University of Heidelberg, and some of my publications attempt (in German) to make Germans familiar with that thought.

(S) Gottfried Dietz

The last Issue of the ITEM PRODUCTION COSTS WERE PAID TO John Slack out of my own personal bank account since the balance was too low. That amount was \$602.80. The Oflag 64 check book balance as of 12/2/ 94 reflects a balance of \$390.00. Some adjustments are due in from the reunion to the extent of about \$430.00 . The main problem centers on the P.F having to bear the very high cost of the mail outs for the reunion.

This is shaving it too closely! We need a more comfortable balance of \$1,000 to 1,500 at a minimum. I ask all of you to get a check in the mail shortly to assist this critical situation.

PINEHURST, N.C.: At the Reunion in Fort Worth the following names were submitted to me for some help in locating their whereabouts. If you are able to assist in this query please be kind enough to send whatever you find to:

Joe Barrett, whose address is shown on p.1.

In the most recent October ITEM three errors have been detected and promptly reported to me. Your Editor, takes full and sole responsibility for them

- a. O. L. Bradford, (not Bradbury, sp.)
- b. Jack Dobson, (not Dodson, sp.)
- c. The address to mail the book orders was inadvertently left off. It is shown in this issue on p. 1.

The Fiscal Report shown in this issue as of September 18, 1994 was discussed at the Reunion and we appeared solvent. That situation is not true today.

(Continued). In short the Postage Fund can not be expected to subsidize the high costs of mail outs. The easiest solution is to raise the Registration Fee.

Finally, and close to home, in my past two years as Custodian of this guarded fund, many contribute nothing, many contribute regularly, and some are very generous. Recently, one member purchased a FAX machine for John Slack to expedite the ITEM news and production. Thank you, Anonymous Angel!

If you enjoy the ITEM show. It and let's not allow the ITEM to become an endangered species.

We wish you Good Health, Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

John Slack and Herb Garris



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5000
November 29, 1994



Office of the Public Affairs Officer

Joseph M. Hibbs Award Winners

FORT KNOX, KY., -- Richmond native, Chaplain (Maj.) David E. Bates, is one of five Fort Knox instructors who will be honored with the Joseph M. Hibbs Instructor of the Year Award for excellence Nov. 1, here.

Bates won the Field Grade Officer's category.

The instructor attributed his success to innovative teaching techniques and a genuine concern for his students' successes in the field.

Bates, who teaches ethics and values, along with stress management, uses commercial video footage as a teaching tool in his classes.

"I try to find some video presentations (about the subjects being taught). There are some commercial films that highlight the predicaments and the dilemmas that we (as individuals) face," said Bates. "The movie 'Lethal Weapon' depicts a police officer with suicidal tendencies, and is an excellent vehicle for showing the signs of suicide."

The award recognizes instructors who exemplify the "highest standards of instructional ability," and is the top post honor a Knox instructor can receive, according to Treacia Shrode, the Hibbs Award coordinator and an instructional systems specialist for the Armor School's Staff and Faculty Branch.

"(They) are evaluated on instructor performance, tactical and technical knowledge, communication skills, appearance and military bearing, training literature development, as well as research conducted and articles published in their field," she said.

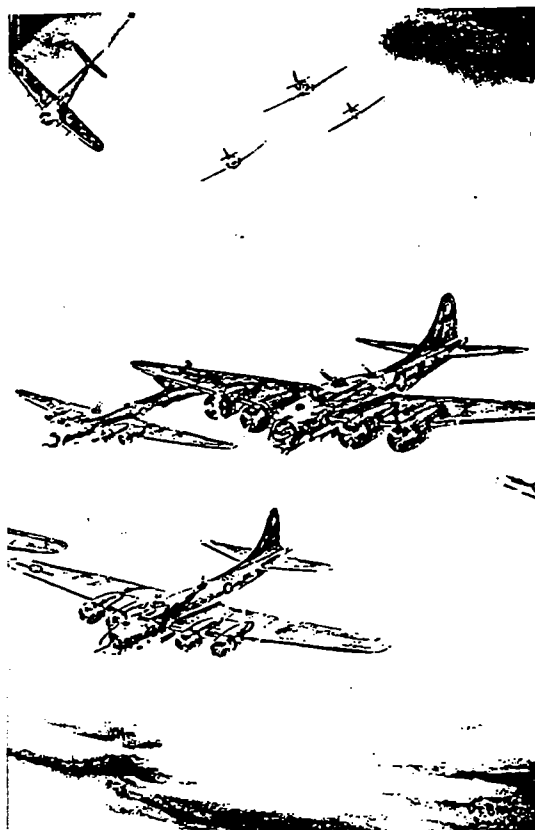
The Hibbs Award winners will be entered in the Training and Doctrine Commands Instructor of the Year Award competition in December.

-END-

POW Odyssey

Recollections of Center Compound
Stalag Luft III
and the Secret German Peace Mission
in World War II

MAJOR GENERAL DELMAR T. SPIVEY USAF



A POW Odyssey by Delmar Spivey, available from Mrs. Delmar Spivey, #103 Randolph Farms, 13300 Indian Rocks Rd., Largo, FL 34644. \$7 incl. postage.

Mays Walter Anderson

Mays Walter Anderson age 73 of Springville, died May 21, 1991 at his home with complications following a stroke.

He was born January 14, 1918 in Mapleton, Utah to Walter and Kathryn Hope Anderson. He married Orpha Peay January 31, 1944. The marriage was later solemnized in the Mani LDS Temple. She died April 12, 1980.

Mays spent five years in World War II, and had been captured by the Germans, imprisoned in Poland, and later escaped. He lived his life in Springville, owning two furniture stores, a real estate business and was involved in home building. He was active in civic affairs including the Springville Chamber of Commerce, and the Kiwanis Club. He was an active member of the LDS Church; he served in many callings, including Bishop, High Council, and Stake Presidency.

He is survived by seven children: Mrs. Charles (Cheryl) Whiddon of Redmond, Washington; David (Kathy) Anderson of Springville; Mrs. Steven (Kristine) Johnston of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; James (Marie) Anderson of Salem; Mrs. Brent (Kay) Sumsion of Mapleton; Michael (Pete) (Karen) Anderson of San Juan, Puerto Rico; Dana (Brenda) Anderson of Springville; 22 grandchildren; four sisters: Ruth Brimhall, Leona Watkins, Helen Alexander and Lois Jensen all of Provo.

Funeral will be Saturday, May 25, 1991 at 2 p.m. in the Hobble Creek 4th ward chapel, 1400 E. 300 South. Friends may call at the Wheeler Mortuary, 211 E. 200 South, on Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. or Saturday at the church from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Burial will be in the Springville Evergreen Cemetery.



He was awarded the Bronze Star and The Purple Heart for his service with The 750th Tank Battalion in support of one of the Infantry Divisions before his capture on November 11, 1944 near Eschweiler, Germany.

If you would like to write a note of condolence, my point of contact by telephone is:
Mrs Kay Sumsion 740 West 1200 N.S.
Mapleton, UT 84664

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

CASKET BEARERS
Markie Harrington
Bill Stivers
Carl Clapper
Dale Howard
Hugh Trask
Bob Moore

OFFICIATING
Reverend Edward P. Phillips

MASONIC SERVICES
Humanity Masonic Lodge
No. 378 A.F. & A.M.

INTERMENT
Glenwood Cemetery
Glenwood, Iowa

PETERSON MORTUARY
IN CHARGE OF SERVICES

DECEASED

ALTON A. LENTZ
607 E. Walnut Street
Hillsboro, TX.
on
24 March 1991
He was an Enlisted Man at
at Oflag 64

IN MEMORY OF

KENNETH B. (KICK) READ
70 years, 1 month, 20 days

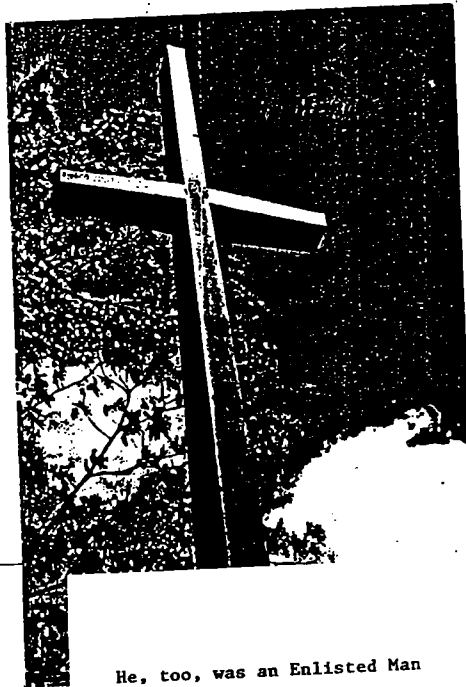
BORN
October 12, 1919
Cromwell, Iowa

ENTERED INTO REST
December 2, 1989
Omaha, Nebraska

SERVICES
Peterson Mortuary
Glenwood, Iowa
Tuesday, December 5, 1989
at 2:30 p.m.

MUSIC
Mrs. Dean Dusenberry, organist

HONORARY BEARERS
Kenneth Asmussen
Alfred Johnson
Glenn Johnson
Bob Williams



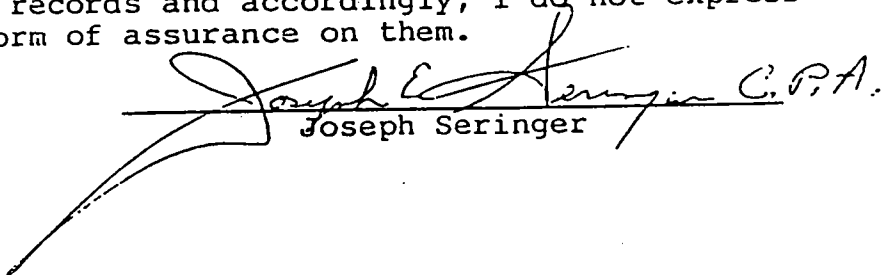
He, too, was an Enlisted Man
at Oflag 64.

Tom Lawton submitted these
two items to us.

OFLAG 64 - SECRETARY'S FUND
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 SEPTEMBER 18, 1993 THRU AUGUST 16, 1994

BALANCE IN FUND SEPTEMBER 18, 1993	\$	853.38
RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD:		
CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND		4171.50
		5024.88
DISBURSEMENTS FROM FUND:		
NEWSLETTER COSTS	2848.34	
SUPPLIES & MISCELLANEOUS	366.73	
TELEPHONE	277.32	
POSTAGE	259.51	
AUDIT	240.00	
REUNION PICTURES	51.95	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		4043.85
BALANCE OF FUND AUGUST 16, 1994	\$	981.03
		=====
BALANCE PER BANK AUGUST 16, 1994	\$	1006.03
OUTSTANDING CHECK #184		25.00
BALANCE OF FUND AUGUST 16, 1994	\$	981.03
		=====

I have compiled the receipts and disbursements as recorded in the secretary's fund of OFLAG 64. My examination did not include an audit or review of the records and accordingly, I do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.



 Joseph Seringer C.P.A.