

VOL. XXXVII

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

AUGUST 1995

**OFLAG 64  
Annual National Reunion  
Atlanta, Georgia  
October 5th - 8th, 1995**

**ATLANTA, GA:** KRIEGIES, again we direct your attention to the above announcement. The Terrace Garden Inn is holding a block of rooms for us, but the cut-off date is September 1! Also, check your sports page—at this writing the Atlanta Braves are leading the standings by 6 games, and their fans may be competing with us for rooms during the playoffs! Be certain to mention the Oflag 64 reservation when you call 1-800-241-8260 for the T.G. Inn or 1-800-241-0200 for the Lenox Hotel.

First, get out the registration forms and send them to Bill Warthen.

Second, call The Terrace Garden room reservation number 1-800-241-8260 and inform them that you are with the **OFLAG 64 REUNION** so you can be accommodated in our block of rooms. If The Terrace Garden is full, call The Lenox 1-800-241-0200.

Third, send in your Tour Reservation form to firm up your choice and to ensure that the 35 minimum number is met.

Fourth, make out your 3x5 sets of notes for your presentation in the event the Andersonville team selects you for interview.

If you are coming by air, be certain to check with Kimberly R. Grant, 1-800-533-7981 to determine if the "Oflag 64 Delta" discount will be to your advantage.

Bill Warthen, in mid-July, reported 47 Kriegies plus wives will be attending, and expects a tidal wave of reservations in August. Additional registration and tour reservation forms are included in this issue. If you have questions regarding the Reunion, call Bill Warthen at (912) 537-4430 or (912) 537-4383. We look forward to seeing all of you in Atlanta!

**BILL WARTHEN AND  
COMMITTEE**

**WOOSTER, OH:** JOE, thank you for your P.F. check. Your financial statement came and we are delighted with it. What a nice piece of skilled work. It will be easy to explain and hopefully will lead us to some more generous givers in October. With only \$806.13 on hand at present (see Financial Statement), that is really shaving it too close. Now with inflated mailing and production costs, we should consider other avenues.

**JOE SERINGER**

**ALL OFLAG 64 KRIEGIES:** With this issue we are attempting to correct our mailing list. To date we have used Bulk Mail to control cost. However, Bulk Mail is not returned to sender if the addressee no longer lives at that address. Therefore we never become aware of the problem. This issue is restricted in pages to reduce weight and sent to you by 1st class mail. In subsequent issues we will identify "lost members" and ask your help in obtaining correct addresses. Meanwhile, send us your address corrections, and remember the ITEM is your ITEM supported by your generous gifts to the Postage Fund, so you may wish to advise us of improvements we could make. **JOHN SLACK, HERB GARRIS, DON LUSSENDEN**

**ATHENS, GA:** BOOMER AND CLEMENTI, it was a sad call when you told us recently about the loss of George Durgin in Sacramento, CA. Your nicely worded narrative for your dear friend is enclosed, and we all thank you for that.

We thoroughly enjoyed your book Escape to Russia. It brought back many memories of our experiences as POWs. We heartily recommend that everyone read it. Send your check for \$35 (which includes postage & handling) to:

H. Randolph Holder, 383 Westview Drive, Athens, GA 30606. Thanks so much for your calls and nice letters.

**BOOMER AND CLEMENTI HOLDER**

**CINCINNATI, OH:** NINA AND BOB, you were so kind to invite and welcome three of us to your

spectacular Reunion of Stalag Luft III on 11-14th of May in Cincinnati. Your reported attendance of 1341 is, in itself, remarkable, but was soon easy to see why. The caring and concern we saw there was so genuine, especially toward us. The visit to the USAF Air and Space Museum was so interesting and dignified. Especially the dedication ceremony held outside on the grounds when a memorial was presented to Stalag Luft III. It was an eagle sculpted and mounted on a three-way stone base and titled "Freedom." The sculptor was present and introduced to us and applauded for his fine craftsmanship.

The next evening the guest speaker, whom we enjoyed very much, was Neil Armstrong, the first American Astronaut to walk on the moon. He gave a fine message and showed his great respect for those present for their dedication and service so bravely done over the European skies some fifty years ago.

The Memorial breakfast on the closing Sunday was touching and included an introductory note about their recent loss, and ours too, of Captain Eugene L. Daniel, from Charlotte, NC. The speaker was a Scottish Paratrooper with an accent unparalleled with a message so meaningfully delivered on 'keeping one's sense of humor.'

Bill Korber, John Slack and Herb Garris came home very pleased to have gone and to have made so many new mutual friends. It was an excellent program overall, and we thank you Nina and Bob Weinberg, who head their organization.  
**HERB GARRIS**

**SEATTLE, WA:** HENRY, thank you for your most generous check for the Postage Fund.

For your information and use: P.F. checks should be sent to one of the Secretary-Treasurers and letters with news or general information to the Guest Editors.

1. Oflag 64 Item Printer & Mailer  
John Slack (610) 642-9173  
1314 Youngsford Road  
Gladwyne, PA 19035

2. Guest Editors Pro Tem  
Don & Lucy Lussenden (313) 591-1739  
16413 Alpine Drive  
Livonia, MI 48154

3. Oflag 64 Secretary Treasurer Pro Tem  
Herb Garris (910) 295-6290  
P.O. Box 1693  
Pinehurst, NC 28374

Bob Levin (910) 673-1590  
558 Seven Lakes North  
West End, NC 27376

We look forward to seeing you and Joan in Atlanta.  
Best wishes for your vacation after the Reunion.

**HENRY SCHULTE**

**COLUMBIA, S.C.:** BILL, many thanks for the assist you gave us in tracking down the loss of Pearce Fleming. (Bill became acquainted with him in a VA Hospital in Columbia. Pearce was there in the terminal stages of cancer.) Bill, we hope your back condition continues to improve, for we need you and Dona in Atlanta! Best wishes. **BILL HARRELL**

**COLUMBIA, S.C.:** PEARCE, thank you and Bill Harrell for the notice of the recent loss of your father. It may seem unusual to read about a loss from the Bataan Death March. Perhaps many of you may have known Pearce. He was a classmate of Herb at Command Gen. Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth. Your father's obituary is printed in this ITEM, and it, simply put, is a story of a fine soldier. Our prayers, Pearce, to you and your family and his sister Katherine. God Bless you. **PEARCE W. FLEMING**

**CHARLOTTE, NC:** ROSE, your loss of Gene was deeply felt here, especially after our visit. He gave real guidance in our review of his splendid book, In The Presence of Mine Enemies. We were looking forward to the possibility of his joining us in October at Atlanta. For our members, Chaplain Daniel never saw Oflag 64, but was well known at Stalag Luft III and Moosburg. His military record was exceptional. Rose, our prayers will be shared, not only in this ITEM, but at the Stalag Luft III Reunion in mid-May in Cincinnati, and at the Oflag 64 Reunion in Atlanta. Our condolences in this time of grief from all of us who knew and served with him. A great soldier! You may write to Rose at: 5100 Sharon Rd., Charlotte, NC 28210-4720. For a copy of Chaplain Daniel's book, send Rose a check or money order for \$9.50, which includes postage and handling. **ROSE (MRS. EUGENE) DANIEL**

**CATONSVILLE, MD:** MRS. WRIGHT, we received your request from Boomer Holder from Athens,

GA, in search of some of Bill's friends. We simply ask any of our members reading this to, if you knew him during his capture in France in September 1944, or who came to Oflag 64 with him in November 1944, to please respond to this plea. We are sorry to learn of Bill's death in 1992 and have included a copy of his obituary in this ITEM. We believe you will enjoy being with us in Atlanta in October at our Reunion. We have a number of widows whom we always welcome gladly. In that group surely someone attending will be able to assist you. You can write to Mrs. Wright at: 316 Stonewall Road, Catonsville, MD 21228-5445.

**LIL (MRS. WILLIAM E.) WRIGHT**

**ASHEBORO, NC:** BOB, you always amazed me with your devoted, loyal volunteer service with the VA Hospital at Salisbury. Am so proud of you. On 7 May, the first Sunday Chapel service was held and he and Francis attended handling the wheelchairs. Best wishes.

**BOB CHEATHAM**

**FAYETTEVILLE, GA:** PATSY, what a shock for us to learn about your loss of Dick. In the recent days we had hoped to get a note off to you to encourage you to attend the Reunion in Atlanta, which is so close to you. We send our condolences to you and your family. When we come down in October, we hope that you will let us come by and visit with you for a few minutes.

Dick was a platoon commander in D Btry, of the 377th Prcht. F.A. Bn., of the 101st Airborne Division. Our warm friendship began in The Parachute School at Fort Benning where we trained and received our Jump Wings in September 1942. We both were assigned to the 101st at Bragg and eventually were sent to Oflag 64 from Normandy. We lost a good soldier and a fine individual and our best wishes to you and the family.

**PATSY (MRS. RICHARD C.) SOLIDAY**

**LEXINGTON, VA:** Morris, many thanks for your nice personal note of 6-15-95. Did reach Mae Jones and she is doing fine. Hopefully we can get together shortly. (Mrs. Jones is a relative of Morris' and lives in nearby Southern Pines.) Regret that your oncoming birthday celebration (his 81st) might keep you away from Atlanta. In addition, that 60th Class Reunion of Dartmouth will be an additional highlight for you. Our congratulations and very best wishes!

**MORRIS JONES**

**MIAMI BEACH, FL:** SID, thank you for your generous check for the P.F. John sent it on its way to me promptly. As to the request for some maps, that is easily solved and, since I am a collector of them, I can handle it easily. Even got a call from Will Warthen who has agreed to have about a dozen easels available for us to place them on. It was a very thoughtful suggestion by you. Looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta! **SID THAL**

**BRANDON, MS:** TOM, what a nice letter, and many thanks for it. So glad to hear that you are planning on being in Atlanta with us. Save that talented fine baritone voice of yours, unlike last October at Fort Worth, with a bad cold, and let's plan on you directing a little sing-a-long for us. As this is being written, I notice that you are not too far from me on your visits to Chapel Hill and Oak Ridge. Hope it is a nice reunion and wedding ceremony combined. Congratulations on the progress report on Oak Ridge Military Academy. It has always been a fine source of material for Army Officers, from those which I have seen produced. Best wishes to Forrestine and you. **TOM HOLT**

**DELL, AR:** KATHRYN, thank you so very much for the phone call recently. We are delighted to give you Bill Cory's address for the order of the 50th Anniversary Book. It will give you plenty of information to help you in the preparation of your speech with the Red Cross shortly. Kathryn is the widow of 1st Lt. John M. Stevens, a trooper of the 82d Airborne Div., 507th

Parachute Infantry Regiment, Co.H. He made the long march to Moosburg and returned home to his father's business. He lived a life of service to his community and the Rotary Club, his Methodist Church and the School System. He passed away in May 1977, and until now we had no knowledge of it. Suspect that he never was on the mailing list of the ITEM, but you will be, effective now. Our best wishes to you and your family. Kathryn's address is: Box 86, Dell, AR 72426.

**KATHRYN (MRS. JOHN M.) STEVENS**

**HOLLAND, PA:** TOM, your check to the P.F. was received, but by the time the envelope got to us your letter was missing! Letters are the stuff that makes for an interesting ITEM.

**THOMAS A. MITCHELL**

**STANWOOD, MI:** JAY, we sincerely regret having lost contact with you. Bill Warthen has made certain that we now have you back. Please try to make the October Reunion in Atlanta.

**JAY DRAKE**

**PITTSBURGH, PA:** JERRY, thank you for the three newspaper articles. Your "Return to the Ardennes" tour was certainly a perfect trip in that you and your friend were able to return to the places where each was captured. Your speaking schedule since June (we counted ten) plus memorial services has to be exhausting. Take care! **JERRY ALEXIS**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA:** NAT, thank you for your check to the Postage Fund and for the update on the Enola Gay Exhibit. We agree wholeheartedly with your point of view.

**NATHANIEL HOSKOT**

**WEST BOYLSTON, MA:** ORMUND, thanks for your Postage Fund check. Who knows what happens to uncashed checks and how long they are cashable? Looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta.  
**ORMUND ROBERTS**

**BRENTWOOD, TN:** HOLLY AND JIM, thank you so much for your generous check to the P.F. Nice to hear from you since the Louisville Reunion. Glad you like the format and contents of the ITEM. We hope you both can find a way to make the Atlanta Reunion.  
**HOLLY AND JIM BATES**

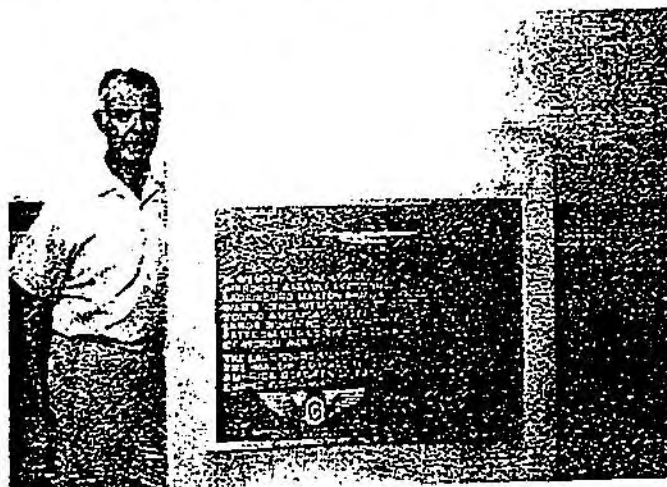
**HOLLAND, PA:** TOM, thank you for the P.F. check, and we urge you to try for Atlanta in October!  
**TOM MITCHELL**

**FAR HILLS, NJ:** JOE, thank you for your most generous contribution to our cause. We regret that your commitments preclude you from attending our Reunion, and do hope for an improvement in your health.  
**JOSEPH S. FRELINGHUYSEN**

**VIDALIA, GA:** BILL, what an interesting story about your efforts to locate your old cubicle mate, Roy Huber. When you located his son and learned that Roy had died in 1987, two years prior to your effort to locate him, of course you regretted waiting. Bill, every one of us has experienced this situation. We were busy with our career and raising our children; then came the grandchildren asking questions that triggered our memory banks, and we go searching for the missing information to relate to the new generation. We intend to duplicate Roy's log "March from Schubin to Parchim Included" and make it available at the Reunion for others to read.  
**BILL WARTHEN**

**PINEHURST, NC:** The photo and news item from Laurinburg-Maxton Airbase are from the 101st Airborne Association dated July-August 1995. My interest was in the handsome memorial dedicated to the Glider Crews who trained there in WW II prior to embarkation overseas. It is truly a fine work. My greatest respect goes to that brave group of men.  
**HERB GARRIS**

Dr. Herbert Garris (D/377) recently visited the Laurinburg-Ma Army Air Base in North Carolina where our glider troops got airborne training before going overseas.



Herbert Garris at Laurinburg-Maxton

**The Screaming Eagle, July-August 1995**

**Richard C. Sollday**  
Member No. 016635  
C 377th PFA WWII 43-46  
May 6, 1995

Arch Lewis and widow Patsy Sollday notified the association of the death of Richard C. Sollday, 76, born on March 28, 1919, passed away May 6, 1995.

A POW Veteran of World War II, he received a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars.

He is survived by wife, Patsy; daughters, Sharee McMahon, California; Shelle Sollday, Smyrna; Melanie Florella Adams, Senoia; Joette Varner, Alabama; son, Dan Sollday, Hawaii, and grandchildren.

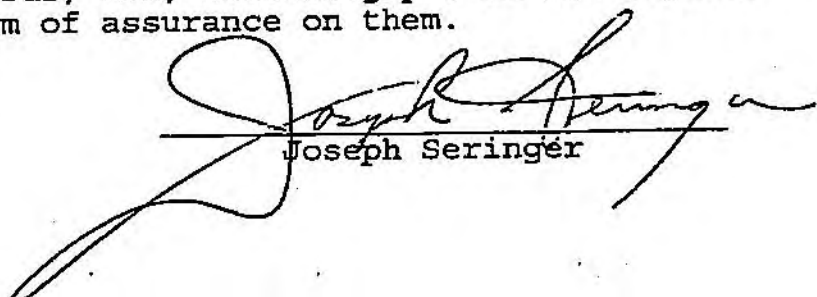
Mrs. Sollday may be sent condolences at 161 Hidden Valley Rd., Fayetteville, GA 30214.

OFLAG 64 SECRETARY'S FUND

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
August 17 thru May 16, 1995

Balance in Fund at Date of Prior Examination, August 16, 1994 .....	\$ 981.03
Receipts (for period ended May 16, 1995.) Contributions to fund .....	3297.00
Total .....	<u>4278.03</u>
Disbursements from fund (for period ended May 16, 1995)	
Newsletter costs - net ...	\$ 1706.84
Supplies and Miscellaneous	556.96
Reunion - Ft. Worth cost not covered - net .....	819.58
Postage .....	209.31
Telephone .....	179.21
Total Expenses	<u>3471.90</u>
Balance of fund May 16, 1995 .....	\$ 806.13 =====
Balance per bank statement April 19, 1995	\$ 661.13
Receipts to May 16, 1995 (no disbursements)	<u>145.00</u>
Balance of Fund May 16, 1995 .....	\$ 806.13 =====

I have compiled the receipts and disbursements of the OFLAG 64 Secretary's Fund as recorded. 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

MY DEAR FRIEND

Respectfully submitted by Howard Boomer Holder, George Durgin's closest companion from day of capture through Poland to Odessa.

GEORGE L. DURGIN died on June 28, 1995, at Sacramento, CA. He was born November 30, 1918, at Palmyra, NJ. He married Virginia Tees on May 16, 1942. The couple had 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Military service: O.C.S. Ft. Knox, KY, commissioned 2nd Lt. in January '42, was assigned to Co. E, 2nd Bn, 1st AR, 1st AD and went overseas with the First Armored in June 1942. He was captured February 15, 1943, at Sidi Bou Sid and escaped January 23, 1945. His decorations included the Bronze Star, European-African-Middle Eastern campaign with 2 stars and an arrow, Prisoner-Of-War, American campaign, American Defense medal, World War II Victory. He served 18 years in the Active Reserve, attaining the rank of Major.

After the war, he attended Rutgers University, and achieved an MS in Ag-Engineering from Michigan State University. After graduation, his first position was with Oldsmobile at Lansing, MI, as an engineer; he then became a systems and control engineer with Aerojet-General Corp., working on Titan, Delta, and the Space Shuttle, and retiring in 1983, but was called as a consultant on various projects until 1987.

George Durgin was a member of "The East Guadalajara Iron Works Marching Brass Band," an intentionally outrageous name for a group that was in great demand and performed for many prestigious occasions, including the mansion of the Governor of California.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Gripsholm With 1,200 Repatriates Due Today**

Jersey City, N.J., Feb. 21 (AP)—Many American aviators who were shot down over Germany, infantrymen who were wounded in battle and seamen from torpedoed merchant ships were coming home today after long months in German prison camps.

They were due to arrive on the Gripsholm, completing her sixth exchange voyage with 1,206 repatriates, including 463 American officers and enlisted men and 42 merchant seamen. Also aboard are 623 civilians and 78 Canadian military personnel.

The ship, due at her American Export Line pier today, sailed from Marseilles February 8 after an exchange of German nationals in Switzerland. The soldiers, all ill or wounded, will go directly to Halloran General Hospital on Staten Island for physical examinations.

**1,000 U.S. Prisoners Are Moved In Germany**

Washington, Feb. 23 (AP)—The Government said today that more than 1,000 American prisoners of war in Germany had been moved westward from Ofag 64 and Stalag IIIB to Stalag IIIA at Luckenwalde.

The announcement stated: "Other Americans from Ofag 64 and a large number of American prisoners of war from Stalag Luft IV are in the vicinity of Swinemund. About one half of the Americans formerly detained at Stalag Luft III are en route to Moosburg, while the destination of the other half is reported to be Nurnberg. A small number of American officers from Stalag Luft III were moved to Stalag IIIA at Luckenwalde.

"Pending notification to the contrary, relatives and friends are urged to continue to address mail to individual prisoners of war to their last known addresses."

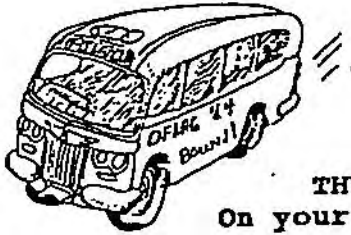
**3,413 Freed Prisoners Sail**

**1,196 Yanks in Group Red Army Liberated**

Moscow, March 11.—(UP)—The newspaper "Pravda" said today 3,413 American, British and French war prisoners, liberated by the Red Army from German prison camps, sailed from Odessa last Wednesday and Thursday.

In the group were 969 American enlisted men and 227 officers, the newspaper said.

Groups awaiting repatriation at Odessa "only constitute the vanguard flood of liberated Allied prisoners moving toward assembly points," the dispatch said. Awaiting the next convoy at the Black Sea port reportedly are 2,000 Americans, 2,000 British and 5,000 French soldiers and civilians.



REGISTRATION FORM

OFLAG 64 ANNUAL NATIONAL REUNION  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 - SUNDAY OCTOBER 8, 1995  
On your own - Call Reservations Desk, Atlanta, Georgia  
TERRACE GARDEN INN, (404) 261-9250 OR LENOX HOTEL (404)261-5500  
BE SURE TO MENTION OFLAG '64

MAIL THIS FORM TO: OFLAG '64 REUNION, C/O BILL WARTHEN. P.O. BOX L, VIDALIA,  
GA 30474 OR FAX TO: (912)537-1299 - ATTN. BILL WARTHEN

PRINT NAME (AS DESIRED ON NAME TAG) WIFE'S NAME (AS DESIRED ON NAME TAG)

Others Others

Print Address Phone Number

Your Unit Place & Date of Capture

Where you were Freed (Oflag 64, on route, Lukenwald, Hammelburg,  
Mooseburg, Nurnberg)

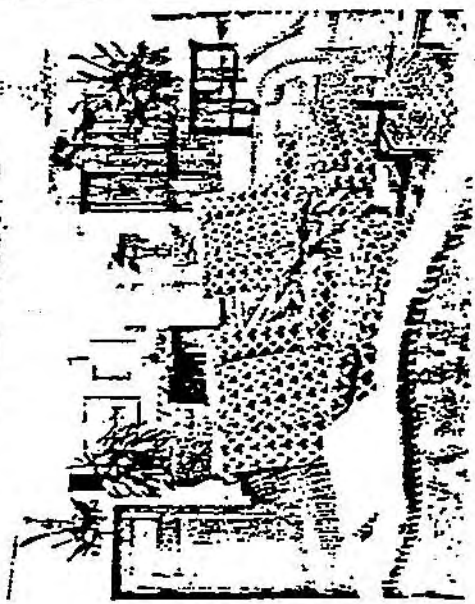
Date and Time of Arrival, If Known. By Car? By Plane?

GOLF WHICH DATE?

Please enclose check for \$110.00 for each registrant. Includes: Hotel Meeting rooms for four days, Continental Breakfast, Saturday Night Banquet Sunday Brunch, and covers postage, promotional costs, prizes and entertainment.

\$50.00 PRIZE WILL BE DRAWN FROM NAMES OF ALL WHO REGISTER BEFORE 6/15/95

BUCKHEAD'S BEST  
KEPT SECRET.



LOCATION: In the heart of "Ruehred," Atlanta's prestigious business and entertainment district. Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza, the city's most exclusive shopping centers, are a quick walk away as are many award-winning restaurants and nightclubs. MARTA, Atlanta's transit system, just two blocks away, allows guests easy access to downtown Atlanta, its convention centers and more.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 360 elegantly furnished guest rooms and suites, with cable TV. Club Level offers in-room amenities, complimentary continental breakfast, cocktails and hours of service.

CONFERENCES: 26,000 square feet of conference, banquet and exhibit space. Complete catering services. Convenient audio-visual aids. Business services such as typing, express delivery and facsimile.

DINING/ENTERTAINMENT: The Cafe offers fine dining featuring Traditional Southern cuisine, breakfast and luncheon buffets are available. The Corner Hearth, famous for its oversized fireplace offers beverages and light snacks. Cascades, overlooking the outdoor pool and fountain, is ideal for cappuccino and conversation.

RECREATION: Health & Fitness Center, including swimming pool, saunas, steam rooms and fully equipped Nautilus weight room.

GUEST SERVICES: Full Concierge services, ample covered parking, same-day valet and laundry service, gift shop, express checkout, and complimentary morning coffee.

TERRACE GARDEN  
A Cambridge Hotel

Contact your travel planner or call 1-800-866-8000.  
405 Lenox Road • Atlanta, Georgia 30326 • (404) 261-9250 • Facsimile: (404) 261-7301  
Sales: (404) 261-5501 • April: (404) 261-5500 • Special One: (404) 261-5500 • Atlanta: (404) 261-5500  
Fax: (404) 261-5501 • Plaza III: (404) 261-5502 • Sky/Solar: (404) 261-5503  
Operated by The Cambridge Hotel Company.



**ATLANTA  
ARRANGEMENTS**  
*by TourCals™*

**OFLAG**

**Tour Program**

Welcome to Atlanta! OFLAG and Atlanta Arrangements have arranged a special tour program for the attendees of OFLA you to acquaint you with our beautiful city and host of the 1996 Olympic Summer Games.

**Tour #1: Carter Museum: Thurs. Oct. 5: Time: 1:30-4:30 PM:**

Depart with guide on a scenic drive through the lovely Druid Hills residential area of Atlanta, Inman Park and walk through John Portman's Peachtree Center Complex. Visit the Carter Presidential Library, a museum dedicated to the American Presidency from the beginning of the twentieth century.  
**COST: \$19.00 PER PERSON**

**Tour #2: Taste of the Peach Tour: Fri., Oct 6: Time: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM:**

Driving orientation tour of the city to acquaint you with the lovely northside residential area where you will see the Georgia Governor's Mansion and Swan House, famous Peachtree Street, the Georgia World Congress Center, CNN Complex, fabulous Fox Theater, the grave of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Olympic venues under construction for the '96 Summer Games. Visit the Cyclorama, circular painting of the Battle of Atlanta and told in sight and sound and the World of Coca Cola Pavilion, a museum dedicated to the famous soft drink founded in Atlanta. The tour will include a delicious Southern-style luncheon complete with Peach Cobbler and a walk through Underground Atlanta, the original business district. . .

**COST: \$39.50 PER PERSON**

Tours will leave from the Terrace Garden Inn.

To request tickets, please fill out the form below. Deadline for ordering tickets is September 1, 1995. Tickets will not be mailed to you but can be picked up at the OFLAG Registration Desk when you arrive. If a minimum of 35 tickets are not sold, tour may be cancelled and money will be refunded. Make checks payable to Atlanta Arrangements and mail with remittance to:

Atlanta Arrangements, Inc.  
2964 Peachtree Rd., NW; #652  
Atlanta, GA 30305; 404/262-7660

(Tear off below here)

**OFLAG**

Thursday, October 5, 1995:

Tour #1: # of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$19.00 ea.: Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, October 6, 1995:

Tour #2: # of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$39.50 ea.: Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Processing charge: 1.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_**

Circle one:

Check enclosed: Visa Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**(OVER)**



## Old Days In North East

by Ralph Hartley

15 JUNE, 1988

### World War II Capt. Roy Huber Prisoner of War

Officers received better treatment by the Germans, perhaps due to German respect for authority. Capt. Roy Huber says Air Force captives were tops in captivity perks. Roy served through the Normandy campaign and escaped anything drastic until Nov. 18, 1944, when he survived a face to face affair that left him alive but a prisoner.

It happened in a patch of woods in Northern France. Roy and a companion were proceeding in dense undergrowth when they came upon a small group of Germans, who had their machine pistols at the ready. Roy dived to one side and flattened himself behind a tree. His buddy tried to shoot it out and was killed.

Roy lay with hands over his ears and temples as the Germans rolled or tossed hand grenades. He heard them land, pretty soon there were explosions which tore his clothing with shrapnel, but did nothing serious to his body.

Presently, he noticed a couple pairs of German boots. The owner of one pair reached down, hooked a finger in Roy's shoulder strap and said, "Stand up! My friend for you the war is over." He spoke excellent English.

They inspected his pack and found a bottle of whiskey which they took. He was taken to a German HQ where he was quizzed with little success by the Germans. Next he was taken to the nearest Officers Stalag where he received a prisoner of war outfit. They took away his officer uniform, but apparently left him his shoes.

Soon a train ride took him to a Stalag near Poland, at that time the best Stalag to be had. He was to be in captivity five months. He was 20 miles from Danzig. There were countless Red Cross packages on hand and the prisoners ate from

them from Dec. 23 to Jan. 21. In addition, twice a day, they were served barley soup, potatoes, bread and tea.

When the Russians broke through in late January and neared the camp, the Germans marched the prisoners across Germany toward the southwest. They walked from 12 to 15 miles a day and the journey took over a month. They had overcoats and shoes. In one city there was a store with a sign "Huber" denoting the owner.

"See, there's your relative," said a German guard. "So why are you over here fighting your relatives?"

At a busy street crossing there was a German cop wearing a helmet with "horsetail" on top directing traffic. "Hi, fellows," he called to the column of prisoners. "Just like Hoboken, isn't it?"

As American tanks came near in April, Roy was rescued but then the Germans counter attacked, and in the shelling, caused many casualties among the prisoners. They were recaptured and it was near war's end before they finally were freed at Moosburg, Germany, April 28.

Roy felt lucky to survive the war as it was part of his duty to read maps and then personally look over the ground in advance of any attack to look for mine fields, etc. He once counted seven bodies of men who were looking for mines. He survived strafing by machine guns, shells and imprisonment.

As with all prisoners, there was likely some impairment of health due to captivity.

Lee Bemiss, for example, had feet and leg trouble after his captivity in an enlisted Stalag. There was little heat in the mountain top prison, and not much food. They might get occasional dog meat, some potato discards, bread and some sort of tea. Red Cross parcels were doled out very slowly. Many prisoners were unable to stand in later weeks and some died.

E. Pearce Fleming, Jr.  
5 Quinine Hill  
Columbia, South Carolina 29204

E. Pearce Fleming, Jr. was a native of Asheville, North Carolina and a graduate of North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina with a degree in engineering.

He enlisted in the U. S. Cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia in 1937 and was later commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. He retired from active duty in 1968 in the grade of Colonel.

In 1940 he was assigned to the Philippine Islands and was transferred to the Field Artillery. At the outbreak of World War II, he was a Battery Commander in the 86th Field Artillery Battalion at Lingayen Gulf, Philippine Islands. In April 1942 he was captured by the Japanese after the fall of Bataan. He made the infamous Bataan Death March and survived three and one half years as a Japanese Prisoner of War. Following World War II, he served in various capacities, both in this country and overseas. In 1952 he entered the Army Aviation Program and became qualified in both airplanes and helicopters. Later he served as Chief Aviation Training, Office of the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, as an aide to the Secretary of the Army and as Deputy Director of Army Aviation in the Pentagon. He served in the Pacific from 1962-65 as Chief, Ground Operations, Pacific Command. He was selected to command Fort Wolters, Texas in 1965 and was Commandant of the U. S. Army Primary Helicopter School.

A veteran of World War II, Korea and Viet Nam, Fleming's decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (three awards), Purple Heart, Presidential Unit of Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters and numerous campaign ribbons and battle stars.

Following retirement from the United States Army, he was primarily engaged in Commercial Real Estate business with The Keenan Company in Columbia, South Carolina. He was a member of the Columbia Lions Club, Trinity Cathedral Parish, Military Order of World Wars, Retired Officers Association of the United States Army, the Army Aviation Association of America and Forest Lake Club.

He was also a member of the American Legion and served as 1st Vice Commander and Post Commander, Richland Post 6, Department Membership Chairman under two Department Commanders, 1973-74 and 1975-76; District 10 Commander 1975-76; Chairman, Speakers Bureau 1974-75; Chairman Aeronautics Committee 1974-77, and State Department Commander, 1977-78.

He was married to the late GERALYN WILLIAMS of Columbia, South Carolina and is survived by a sister Mary Kathryn Miller of Asheville, North Carolina and three children: Pearce W. Fleming, of Columbia, South Carolina; Michael C. Fleming, of Atlanta, Georgia; Linda F. Stout (Mrs. R. H. Stout) of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina and six grandchildren.

## William E. Wright Jr Intelligence specialist

Services for William E. Wright Jr., an Army officer captured by the Germans in World War II and a civilian military intelligence specialist for the Army, will be held at 9 a.m. tomorrow in a chapel at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Mr. Wright, 70, died Saturday of cancer at his home on Stonewall Road in Catonsville.

He retired from the Army as lieutenant colonel in 1966.

He had enlisted in 1940. After completing Officers Candidate School, he was an infantry officer in Italy and Southern France before being captured by the Germans in 1944. He was a prisoner in Poland and in Germany and was released the next year. He became a military intelligence officer before serving in the Korean War.

His decorations included the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster.

He was secretary and former exalted ruler of the Catonsville Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He had been a committee chairman in the state organization of the Elks and headed its South-Central District.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., he attended Peabody College for Teachers, now part of Vanderbilt University before joining the Army.

He is survived by his wife, the former Lillian Lockett; a daughter Lillian Sue Wright Schadle of Fayetteville, Ga.; a son, William Stewart Wright of Altamonte Springs, Fla. three sisters, Ruth Kilgore and Helen Maxon, both of Nashville, and Dorothy Farris of Washington; and two grandsons.

LARRY CLARK  
SCHADLE AND JASON  
MATTHEW WRIGHT.

# OBITUARIES



**JOHN M. STEVENS, JR.**

John M. Stevens, Jr., 57, of Dell, a prominent farmer and businessman in Mississippi County for more than 30 years, died Sunday May 8, in Memphis Baptist Hospital after a brief illness.

Named "Arkansas Farmer of the Year" in 1962 by the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, Stevens owned extensive farming interests in the area around Dell and was owner and operator of the Stevens-Gin Co.

After graduation from Blytheville High School in 1936, he attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville where he received a B. S. degree in agriculture with departmental and senior class honors in agronomy. In 1942, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

In September, 1942, he graduated from the Infantry School's Rifle and Heavy Weapons Co. Officers Course at Ft. Benning, Ga. Volunteering for parachute duty, he was assigned to the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment and in March, 1944, his regiment was transferred from the British Kingdom of North Ireland to England. As

part of the 82nd Airborne Division, Stevens and his regiment parachuted into Normandy, France, about three hours preceding H-hour about 15 miles inland of Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. On June 9, Stevens was captured by German troops and spent almost a year in a prisoner-of-war camp at Schrebin, Polduz and Luckenwald, Germany. After the war, he was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action and the

Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Stevens was active in agricultural affairs throughout his life serving as past president and board member of the Mississippi County Farm Bureau, former chairman and board member of the Mississippi County Conservation District and board member of Drainage District 17.

Within Dell's community life, Stevens served on the School Board for 26 years, 17 of which as president; was a past president of the Dell Kiwanis Club; and at the Dell Methodist Church was former chairman of the Board of Stewards, Church School superintendent and adult class teacher.

In addition, he was a board member of the Chickasawba Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Because of his wartime experience, Stevens wrote that "I would not have survived the prison camps had it not been for the Red Cross and its food packages. If anybody owed the Red Cross a debt of gratitude, it was me."

He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John M. Stevens, Sr., of Dell. He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Kathryn Gill of Dell; three children, Mrs. Ronald A. Robinson of Little Rock; John M. Stevens, III, of Dell and Robert David Stevens of Dell; a sister, Mrs. E. J. Edwards, Jr., of Shawnee Mission, Kan.; and two grandsons.

Funeral services were conducted at the Dell Methodist Church Tuesday, May 10, with the Rev. Raymond H. Dorman officiating. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery in Blytheville with Cobb Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to the Dell United Methodist Church.

# Survival Lesson

Yesterday, the obituary on John M. Stevens, Jr., came across the desks of the Courier News newsroom. There was one notable thing about the obituary before ever reading a word of it—it was twice the length of the usual Courier News obituary. So long as to be in violation of the newsroom policy: obituaries which go into the roundup are to the point; the longer ones will be given space on another page.

But closer examination of the Stevens story made it plain why this was so. By the time he was in his mid-20's, John Stevens already had done more than most people do in their entire lifetimes. He was one of the authentic heroes of World War II. As a paratrooper, he was dropped behind enemy lines prior to the invasion of the Continent. He escaped with his life, but was taken prisoner.

From that point, he went on to return to this county where he farmed and became a leader in his community and the county and state agricultural structure.

It was quite a life and he was quite a man.

And in saying that, we've violated another policy, which dictates against writing post-mortem laudatory pieces.

But a review of John Stevens' serves to remind us of the character of America because it was men like John Stevens, who were called when this nation and the west world were in the deepest of trouble. Germany held Europe in an iron of despotism. Democratic institutions as we know the government, courts, libraries, churches, universities, gathering people, newspapers, elections—frozen into inactivity in Germany, France, Poland, Italy and a number of smaller nations. In addition, the force was being used to go to Russia, Spain and Japan. Especially, the only thing sustaining flame of freedom of thought and action were the dauntless, but weak forces of the United Kingdom and the potential of the United States.

That democracy survived because there were Americans like John Stevens.

The price of liberty was remains extremely high.

Courier News, Blytheville (Ark.)

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Tuesday, May 10, 1977

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# The Time Of The Americans Splendid Book And US Guide

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS  
IN THE TIME OF THE AMERICANS, David Fromkin, Albert A. Knopf, New York, 618 pp., \$30, 1995.

To have undertaken the massive and thorough research task as the author has in this, even for one of the great five Americans over five decades is truly awesome.

It traces to the very heart of a characteristic so dear to many Americans since the early colonial days—to stay out of foreign wars and annoyances. It made our entry into WWI and WWII delayed until the very last, leaving few available options remaining for us. That term is known as isolationism and from time to time as troubles ferment, on foreign soil, it has set off some harsh and decisive words against any military action or participation by our leaders here at home.

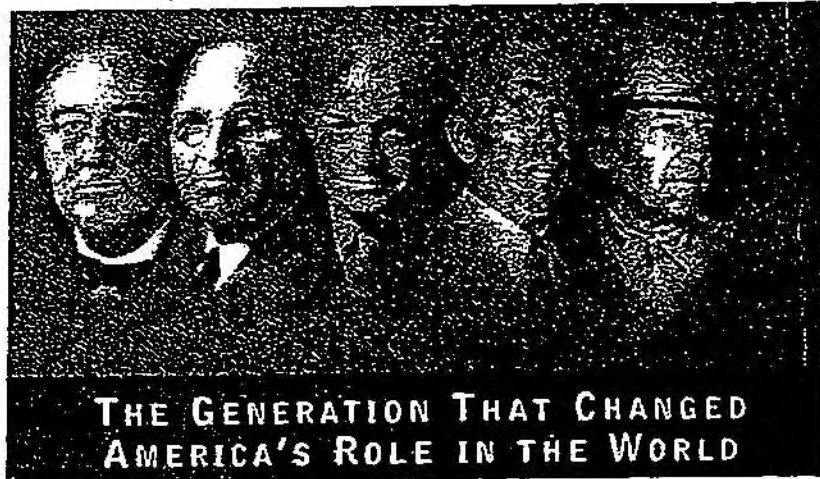
For 200 years our trade, commerce, communications and diplomacy have grown and forced us to make some changes in such a simplistic policy.

In short, we can no longer allow the nation to stand by and play an inactive participant role, even on some recent costly, unwanted and dubious ventures. And in this professional and scholarly work such heavy burdens were placed in the hands of President Wilson at the outset, then Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower following.

Granted the cry in WWI was to "keep us out of war," politics do not work that way, especially on the international level. The sad result is that on most occasions our national defense effort has had to enter with less than an optimum standing, too late, and has had to strive hard to overcome that, winning hearty public support finally, with one exception, Viet Nam.

My previous study of Wilson and his two terms of office were indicative of his "desire to be a man of peace," and then he became "a savior of France and Britain" with our timely support and entry with the Army Expedition Force. Which subsequently turned the tide and

## IN THE TIME OF THE AMERICANS



DAVID FROMKIN

ALBERT A. KNOPF

His vision of a League of Nations was simply 20 years ahead of his time, and it failed in the U.S. Senate and left Wilson a broken man.

The misjudgements of the Treaty of Versailles may, in great part, be the root cause of Germany's total disregard for compliance with it and a rapid path into rearmament, which by 1939 appeared on the scene with an invincible and unassailable military force which went totally unchallenged in Europe and on the high seas. The Japanese took the same exact pattern in its rearming program.

The Western Allies have always been criticized for their lack of preparedness or more like "hiding their heads in the sand," yet this is the normal way of the Western Democracies, with far more attention being devoted to its huge domestic problems of a depression in the 30's. In sharp contrast, the dictatorships work differently and by creating many creative and progressive programs in that period soon gained public support and moved easily into the formation of the incomparable military machines under Hitler and Mussolini.

Our entry into the European fracas dates more precisely to the lightning-like assaults on the Baltic countries, the Low countries, France and Poland. These short and fierce onslaughts were soon termed the "blitzkrieg." Our own national security was in very little better shape than the Allies in Europe.

However, England managed to hang on and the unanswered question for historians remains to now, why did Hitler not invade England? After Dunkerque and the brave rescue of many French and British troops, the United States with its vast resources and talent in the military-industrial complex soon geared up to full speed mobilization and was generally well supported by the people. The isolationist groups were never quelled, but soon came around and finally served the nation with their late support.

The unparalleled story of Roosevelt and his four terms in office ran on to far more constituency support from across the nation, giving the military planners far more latitude and fiscal assist in the modernization and mobilization tasks at hand. Naturally that support is finalized in the Congress who were not nearly unanimous in their role.

Two other military leaders who served admirably were Marshall and MacArthur. They both had served as Army Chiefs of Staff and were talented in their primary field and skilled in diplomacy. Their selections were very wise and led to the rapid pace and subsequent victory over Japan and Germany.

Truman was an unlettered man, who rose to the U.S. Senate from Missouri to be Roosevelt's vice president. His training period was a brief one but after Roosevelt's demise, he learned fast and became very decisive and respectable.

His uncertainty and lack of confidence displayed at the Postdam Conference facing Stalin and Churchill, two pros from the word go, led him to drop the two nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities, to initiate the Marshall Plan to save Greece and parts of Central Europe, his call on the Soviet Union's sponsorship of the North Korean takeover of its neighbor to the south and his firing of MacArthur for his insubordination and intransigence demonstrated some ex-

Returning to our delayed entry into WWII the author reveals in great detail the careful orchestration that went on between Churchill and Roosevelt and their respective staffs.

France though probably as damaged and as near destruction as a nation could be by the Germans and their four years of painful occupation never seemed to be on track during the war and even after with a deep harboring resentment of neglect by the United States mainly. The Allies soon found a way to cope with the Nazi U-Boats and it led to the enormous scheme to launch the matchless invasion of the Continent with a force in June, 1944.

Meanwhile the Soviet Union had allied itself earlier with Germany in a Non-Aggression Pact which was voided when Hitler invaded in the summer of 1941. While the invasions took some time in its implementation it was welcome news for Stalin who by then had set off a massive counter-attack toward the West against Germany on a broad front.

In all fairness to the author's treatment to several of the staff members of the key players: Bullitt, Dulles, Lippman, Taft, Vandenburg, Colonel House, Welles and Hary Hopkins they performed well for the most part, but were burdened with all nature of personality problems which drove the leaders nearly insane with their ambitious and often not well thought out pipe dreams. In a time of national emergencies weaknesses of judgment and biased opinions need to be shielded or avoided and not to become a force which might delay or impair the president's goals.

The poignant transcript at the end of the work shows the author's elegance in his work. What we saw in retrospect was a nation turned around from a direction which Wilson could not handle, but which

Roosevelt to the formation of the United Nations, using all the sections of America and the Allies.

It was only then that the United States began to assume a responsible role in world affairs. From that event and our participation in the imperative the title of the book became self evident that our impression was made by our presence and heavy contributions from our leaders and our people that as we visit some of these allies and look about they with deep respect say, "It is from the time of the Americans." Very nicely said and so correct in every sense.

This is a fine work and written with such clarity and deep understanding of the problems at hand and the ensuing results and achievements on how our government system operates on civilian control at the heart of it, yet with an ear open to the military who recommend and advise. All wrapped into a bundle of patriotic and service support with a desire to serve when called upon.

No panacea is offered by the author for the innumerable hot spots which arise almost each day across the universe. We may have learned to spot them and take whatever action is needed as quickly as possible to avoid deeper and more costly expense and trouble later on.

In conclusion, it is a splendid book as a guide to successful international and domestic policy-making and relations, with many good examples shown. Congratulations on a potential textbook for college students in the field of International Relations.

## The War Marches On: New Selections for 1995

There will be a plethora of books about the war this year. From the passing ranks, a few that are available, or will be soon.

The most readable is by Martin Gilbert: **THE DAY THE WAR ENDED: May 8, 1945 — Victory in Europe** (Holt, \$27.50). The war did not end in a day, and this book stretches far beyond May 8. But Martin Gilbert, a historian and Churchill's official biographer, fills it with people who have a gift for expressing the weariness, apprehension and thrill of the moment. He gets the mix of voices right: wrangling in Allied capitals over the precise hour of victory; thunderous joy in Times Square; sobbing at the Theresienstadt camp; laughter in Russia. Across the world, a British major in Burma, hearing the Allied V-E Day declarations on radio, notes a pang of remorse among men along the Irrawaddy; dying will resume at sunrise.

Coming in July is **THE LAST GREAT VICTORY: The End of World War II, July-August 1945** (Truman Talley/Dutton, \$32.95), by Stanley Weintraub, who four years ago gave us "Long Day's Journey into War: December 7, 1941." His method is the same: a tour of the world and of war literature, organized here around the Allied summit meeting at Potsdam; during the meeting, scientists detonated the first atomic bomb in a New Mexico desert.

If the war was apocalyptic at home, it was not always grim, as the historian and royal family biographer Philip Ziegler reminds us in **LONDON AT WAR: 1939-1945** (Knopf, \$27.50). Londoners responded robustly to their dangers, deprivations and sorrows, and Mr. Ziegler makes one laugh with deep respect at their antics — his own wry, if not downright dismissive, attitude only adding to the amusement.

**THE BATTLE FOR OKINAWA** (Wiley, \$24.95), written by Hiromichi Yahara in 1972, will appear in English in August. Yahara, as a strategic intelligence colonel, devised the war-of-attrition defense that made this fiercest conflict of the Pacific war one long slaughter. His powerful account (what a film it would make) culminates in the poignant depiction of the regret of Lieut. Gen. Mitsuru Ushijima, the Japanese commander, when his American counterpart, Lieut. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, was killed, and the subsequent ritual suicides of Ushijima and his deputy commander as the great island fell. **OPERATION ICEBERG: The Invasion and**

**Conquest of Okinawa in World War II** (Donald I. Fine, \$24.95), by Gerald Astor, an oral history, has many photographs that let us see the battle's scale.

In **PRISONERS OF THE JAPANESE: POWs of World War II in the Pacific** (Morrow, \$25), Gavan Daws, an Australian-born historian living in Hawaii, distills 11 years of interviews with survivors into a grisly story of the savagery of life and death in Japanese prison camps, with an unnerving subtext about some prisoners playing deadly games of survival against one another. Brave men appear here, but no heroes. Mr. Daws is angry, and his adoption of the earthy speech of his informants adds to the impression that this may be the rawest, harshest book about the war, and a convincing one.

**PROUDLY WE SERVED: The Men of the U.S.S. Mason** (Naval Institute, \$29.95) is an oral history of the destroyer Mason, the first ship in our Navy manned by a black crew. Mary Pat Kelly, a film maker and writer, weaves recollections of its veterans into an adventure filled with good humor and warm personal pride.

Philip Makanna has photographed old, restored bombers and fighter planes all over the world for 20 years. His magnificent color shots fill **GHOSTS OF THE SKIES: Aviation in the Second World War** (Chronicle, \$40), accompanied by some wartime pictures. We have more air power now, but, as the book shows, less beauty.

Any day I expect to see an "Oxford Companion to the End of the World." What else is left to companion? (Well, there is no Companion to Hermitis — yet.) Now comes **THE OXFORD COMPANION TO WORLD WAR II** (Oxford University, \$49.95), edited by I. C. B. Dear and M. R. D. Foot, with 144 contributors, including several of the war's most authoritative historians — illustrated by 120 campaign maps of the busy type only old generals love. Some fresh, even original, articles, by scholars like Sir Michael Howard, Lucio Ceva and Lyman Van Slyke, reflect current historical debate (thus they will be dated anon). It has 1,343 pages, but, like all war reference books, it has holes; it is not an annihilator of the competition. On most subjects named in it a casual reader can find what he wants to know in many places, and war groupies will be better off consulting narrative histories of campaigns, weapons or other elements of the war, some of the best of them written by contributors to this volume.

D. J. R. BRUCKNER

# Rev. Eugene Daniel, WWII chaplain, dies

By DEAN SMITH  
Staff Writer

If the Rev. Eugene Daniel hadn't stayed behind to minister to wounded enemy soldiers, he wouldn't have been captured and imprisoned by the Germans during World War II. For that act of gallantry, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross.

Mr. Daniel, one of Charlotte's most decorated veterans and a well-known Presbyterian minister, died Tuesday at Presbyterian Hospital. He was 84.

He'll be remembered in a service at 2 p.m. today at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. He served at the church as associate pastor for 11 years, until retiring in 1975, and as associate pastor emeritus since 1989.

But it's his war experience that captured the imaginations of many Charlotteans when he arrived 31 years ago.

The Georgia-born minister found himself part of the initial Allied invasion of Algiers, in north Africa, as a chaplain with the 34th Infantry Division. That won him a Silver Star Medal.

Two years later, he was captured and sent to Stalag-Luft III, the huge POW camp in Sagan, Germany. He

didn't know then that the camp — and the tragedy he lived through — would be immortalized in the movie "The Great Escape."

The escape failed. Fifty Allied soldiers were captured, returned and executed.

After the war, he and his wife, Nancy, worked as missionaries in Korea, only to have that experience cut short by war. From 1951 until coming to Charlotte, Mr. Daniel worked as Candidate Secretary of the Board of World Missions of the Presbyterian Church, helping launch the careers of more than 500 missionaries.

But memories of World War never left him. In 1985, he published a book about them, "In the Presence of Mine Enemies."

In it, he told of how his German captors gave him permission to minister to his fellow prisoners and of how he searched for so many words of comfort to offer them.

He settled on words from Philipians: "For I have learned whatever state I am, therewith to be content."

Mr. Daniel is survived by a wife, Rose; sons, Eugene Daniel III, Clover, S.C., and John Daniel; daughters, Mrs. Sallie Johnson Hickory and Mrs. Mary Daniel-Y of New York; brothers, Al Daniel of Atlanta and William Daniel of Orlando, Fla.; sister, Mrs. Alpha Gilbert of Clinton, S.C.; and 9 grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Crisis Assistance Ministries, P.O. Box 31636, Charlotte, NC 28222.



Mr. Daniel

Thursday  
April 27, 1995

INTRODUCING

IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES

The Story of an American Army Chaplain in World War II  
German Prisoner-of-War Camps

by Chaplain (Major) Eugene L. Daniel, Jr. (AUS Retired)

112 pages; soft cover, quality paper and printing; rare pictures.  
Price: \$ 8.00 plus \$ 1.50 for postage and handling, total \$ 9.50.

This book is the unique and interesting story of Gene Daniel's experiences in World War II. He was called to active duty in July 1941 and he writes briefly of training in Louisiana, New Jersey, North Ireland and Scotland. His first combat was in the initial beach landings at Algiers, North Africa, November 8, 1942. For his actions there he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

His unit, the 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Division, moved into combat in Southern Tunisia in January 1943. On February 16th he and about 2000 other American soldiers were captured by the Germans in the Battle of Faid Pass-Sidi-Bou-Zid. This was the initial thrust of the German Armies which culminated in the historic Battle of Kasserine Pass. Chaplain Daniel came into German hands when he voluntarily stayed behind to take care of seriously wounded German prisoners. The German commanding officer, Oberst Schmidt, wrote him a letter of appreciation for helping to save the lives of his wounded soldiers. General Eisenhower awarded him (in absentia) the Distinguished Service Cross for this action.

The main body of the book deals with his experiences as a Chaplain in POW camps in Germany. He mentions but does not dwell on the miserable and dangerous side of POW life. Rather he relates and shares experiences as a minister to his fellow prisoners. He was assigned at various times to Stalag VII A, Oflag IX A/Z, and Stalag Luft III. He was serving in Stalag Luft III when the Great Escape took place. He took part in the Memorial Service for the 50 British RAF escapees who were executed by the Germans. For the whole time of more than 26 months he was able to preach, teach and minister to the men. Ironically they found much to laugh about during those dreary months. An underlying faith in the Providence of God saved most American POW's from despair. Genuine patriotism kept alive a confidence in an ultimate American victory.

This book may be purchased by sending a check or money order for \$9.50, which includes postage and handling, to:

Rose Daniel  
5100 Sharon Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210-4720



*Dear Herb and all of our POW friends,*

*Thank you for your condolences on the loss of our beloved George. He left us on June 28, 1995 after a series of illnesses over a period of 2 1/2 months. The ultimate cause of his death was heart failure. He was cremated and we will be having a private family service when our oldest daughter returns home at the end of this month.*

*George spent 32 years as an aerospace engineer, working on everything from the Titan missile to the Space Shuttle. He was a devoted husband and father and we have five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, so he left me with a wonderfully supportive family.*

*George was proud to be a member of the Oflag 64 survivors and always enjoyed the reunions with you wonderful people and so did I. As a matter of fact, it was the only organization that he felt an allegiance to, for he was never a "joiner", much preferring to spend his spare time helping family, friends, and neighbors.*

*I hope to attend future reunions because I feel emotionally bound to our POW friends and would not want to have a break in that relationship. I will look forward to seeing you all again.*

*My family and I are requesting that George's friends honor his memory by doing a good deed for someone else, in his name. Thank you and may God bless each one of you in a special way.*

*Sincerely and affectionately,*

*Virginia (Ginnie) Durgin*