



**ATLANTA, GA:** What a great and exciting time we had at the Reunion! First of all, Bill Warthen and Committee arranged for Hurricane Opal to greet us on Wednesday, October 4, as we arrived at the airport. Flights were in the process of being canceled, causing us to divert for a half-hour and then, when we were on the ground, our plane was directed to a gate other than where we had arranged to be picked up. Once the driver found us, he had to drive through the darkened city in a blinding rainstorm. Once safely in the hotel, the lights went out until 11:00 a.m. Thursday morning! Bill and Dorothy Warthen and daughter Ellen manned the registration desk spelled off by other committee members and kept us all informed and on time.

In spite of the hurricane, Bill and Committee got everything started off well by 9:00 AM Thursday. Tours were hampered by the destruction left by the storm. Hundreds of great trees were uprooted, blocking roads over the entire city. Many areas were closed because of power outages or the employees could not get to work. Boomer and Clementi Holder arranged for and led a group on a VIP Tour of the CNN Center, which was very interesting and enlightening. Our visit to the Decatur Playhouse to see the play "Stalag 17" was delayed by some 20 minutes part curtain time and we expected to be held in the lobby until the second act. Instead, the audience was informed

that we were former POWS and that we were on our way and the curtain was held until our arrival. When we entered, we were greeted by a most heartfelt and lengthy applause. At intermission, members of the audience sought us out with many questions and expressions of gratitude for our military service. Here we must add that the play's presentation was excellent, and the actors expressed their appreciation for our interest and attendance. The following day, the play's director, Sondra A. Nelson, and her assistant director joined our reunion "to get a flavor of who and what we are."

Saturday evening, after our banquet, Henry Söderberg presented a special YMCA award for Service to Prisoners of War to Bill Warthen. He was followed by General Michael Spigelmire, who made an excellent presentation of the development of the 1996 Olympic preparations and projects which are being accomplished with no use of Public Funds. The planning includes the use of Olympic structures by city, county and educational institutions after the close of the Olympic Games. **THE EDITORS**

**ATLANTA, GA: THE POSTAGE FUND** was a topic brought up at the Reunion Business Meeting by questions regarding the

Photo by Bill Bickers © 1995

fluctuation of contributions sent in and the frequent deficit financing of mailings of the ITEM. After much discussion, including the knowledge that some of us cannot afford to contribute and further that we are not an organized group with a charter, officers and the ability to assign dues, we agreed by a show of hands "that we would ask all who are able and interested to send to our treasurer \$25.00 per year." Our best estimate is that we can continue to publish and send out the ITEM and such bulletins as necessary to our entire mailing list if our efforts were funded in such a manner. There is no plan to check off, record, award or beg our members to comply. Joe Seringer's Statement of Receipts and Disbursements, which will appear in the ITEM, will be our guide in this matter.

## REUNION PARTICIPANTS

**ATLANTA, GA:** We welcomed to our October Reunion five first-timers:

Jack Monaghan, 80th Div., Birmingham, Alabama, returned via Odessa

John & Loraine Sutherland, 84th Div., Rock Island, Illinois, returned via Odessa

Dick & Helen Reid Kellahan, 84th Div., Kingtree, S.Carolina, returned via Luckenwald

Warren & Betty Walters, 9th Div., Columbus Georgia, returned via Luckenwald

Jay & Betty Drake, 102nd Div., Stanwood, Michigan. (Jay, Robert Corbin, and Warren Smith

made a 9 day adventurous/dangerous journey from Hammelburg to the American lines.)

We sincerely hope that these "first-timers" will continue in our fellowship in Des Moines, Iowa '96 and Newport, Rhode Island '97.

**DON LUSSENDEN**

**ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL MUSEUM, GA:** From dawn to dusk MS. AMANDA RHODES interviewed those attending the reunion about our experiences as Kriegies and how these experiences have affected our lives. As she interviewed Kriegies, she also videotaped them and the tapes will be available in the archives of The Friends of Andersonville at the Museum. Saturday morning, Ms. Rhodes gave a presentation of the progress of the building program at Andersonville. The first stage is completed, the second stage is underway, and the third stage is awaiting the House and Senate to negotiate the package that will make \$2.8 million available for the National Prisoner of War Museum.

**MS. AMANDA RHODES**

**VALLINGBY, SWEDEN:** HENRY, we were so very pleased that you were able to join us in Atlanta! We were also happy to learn that your apprehension while on SAS standby was relieved suddenly with an assignment to First Class with 2 seats for your

---

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

comfort! We look forward to next year in Des Moines.

**HENRY SÖDERBERG**

**SWARTHMORE, PA:** TOM, it was so nice to visit with you in Atlanta at the Reunion. We heartily agree with you that Bill Warthen and his fine committee pulled out all the plugs for a very successful and enjoyable meeting. Always good to see you and Eleanor, Curtis Jones and Norma. All the best.

**TOM AND ELEANOR MILLER**

**SAVANNAH, GA:** CHARLES, we're sure glad that Bill Warthen saw your name and address in the Savannah News and passed it on so we could send you some past copies of the ITEM. The Veterans Day article mentioned that you had been a Kriegie in Oflag 64. You were in Co. D 314th Inf. 79 Div., captured at Haguenau, France on November 29, 1944 and ended up in Oflag 64. You are right; that sure was some march! Thanks, too, for the check for the P.F. We're happy that you enjoyed reading the ITEMS and will add your name to our mailing list. We look forward to seeing you at the Reunion next October in Des Moines. If you would like to write to Charles, his address is:

1906 E. Henry St., Savannah, GA 31404.

**CHARLES R. RAY**

**MT. PLEASANT, PA:** LEONARD, many thanks for your nice check and friendly note. Sorry you could not come to Atlanta. Best wishes.

**LEONARD FELDMAN**

**IOWA CITY, IA:** MARVIN, Many thanks for the generous gift you sent for the P.F. It was so grand to see you both in Atlanta. We agree with your compliment to Bill Warthen and his committee who very unselfishly made every move possible to ensure a fine and enjoyable program for us. Dot told us that Bill slept for three days running afterwards, to catch up on his rest. Marv, thanks for letting us know about Bob Christensen, who passed away after a long battle with Lou Gherig's Disease. You are the first to let us know about Bob. Bob was involved in the Hammelburg

Shoot Out and made it back to friendly lines. We saw him last at the Norfolk Reunion in 1991. **MARVIN AND FAYE CHEVALIER**

**AUGUSTA, GA:** The **SISTER OF BILL GUEST, NAN GUEST BOHN**, informs us that as of October 16, Bill is in the V.A. Nursing Home in Augusta, Georgia. He had a hip replacement followed by other surgery. His sister calls him twice a week, but says he really needs people to call him, visit or write a note. His current address is:

William (Bill) C. Guest  
Nursing Home V.A.M.C.  
1 Freedom Way  
Augusta, GA 36904-6285  
Room #113

**NAN GUEST BOHN (BILL GUEST)**

**PHOENIX, AZ:** CHARLES, many thanks for the check for the P.F. Good to hear from you and hope that next time you might send some news for the ITEM. So sorry that you and Frances couldn't make it to Atlanta, for it was a real big one.

**CHARLES W. MOORE**

**TEQUESTA, FL:** DELORES, many thanks for the kind letter and the check for the P.F. Also appreciate the nice words that you had to say about keeping the gang together, which is a task, believe me. But the work on the reunion and the ITEM, as well, is possible with lots of support from the membership, like you and many others. Warm regards.

**MRS. DELORES (OTTO) AMERELL**

**MAYFIELD HEIGHTS, OH:** SID, thank you for your nice words about the OFLAG

64 ITEM and the check for the P.F. We were thinking of you in Atlanta and hope to see you at the next reunion.

**ELAINE AND SID WALDMAN**

**BELLEROSE VILLAGE, NY:**

LORRAINE, thank you for the letter and the check for the P.F. Sorry that you could not have been with us in Atlanta, but understand. Besides, the trip to Belgium sounds very exciting! Meanwhile, bon voyage and a nice trip to Brussels. We were there last June in 1994 and enjoyed it and Brugges so very much.

**LORRAINE GLENDINNING**

**GIG HARBOR, WA:** JIMMY, many thanks for the note and the continued search for the correct address for Robert H. Schulte, whose ITEM has been returned to the sender. Hope that on the next trip you can make positive contact. Also, the same appeal goes to any members who know Bob.

**JIMMY KANAYA**

**WALTHAM, MA:** FRANCIS, thank you very much for your nice check for the P.F. While you did not send any news, it was still good hearing from you. One day soon we will write to you and ask if you recall Capt. John McDonnell, a company commander with the 88th Inf. Div. and shot up badly about the time you were taken. Best wishes.

**FRANCIS CALLAHAN**

**FAIRLAWN, NJ:** SYLVIA, we received the tribute to Joe which was written by Danny Steinberg, his grandson. It was well done and will be a reminder of how fragile time can be with us. Please thank Danny for us. Enjoyed seeing and visiting with you so much in Ft. Worth last year. All members join us in our prayers and love in these days of your loss, and yet he brought so much joy

to you, Sylvia, and to Sharon and Jacqueline, too. If you would like to write a personal note, please do:

0-18 30th Street  
Fairlawn, NJ 07410

**SYLVIA (MRS. JOE) FRIEDMAN**

**WORCESTER, MA:** IRVING, many thanks for your nice note and the check for the P.F. We were looking for you to be on hand for the muster in Atlanta. We hope that you are recovering from your recent illness and wish you a speedy recovery. We missed you and your neighbor, Ralph Tedeschi. Try to attend next year in Des Moines. We want all to see that he is alive and well, though the Memorial Programs have listed him as No Longer Present for Duty. An oversight of our own! **IRVING YAROCK**

**BATON ROUGE, LA:** GORDON, many thanks for the check for the P.F. and paving the way to assist Kathy Stevens out in Dell, AR. It was easy to do, since we found that you and William Stevens were in the 82nd Airborne together. It made a nice story in the last issue of the ITEM. Many thanks and all our best.

**GORDY AND MARTY SMITH**

**NORTHWOOD, IA:** CHARLES, thank you for the check for the P.F. and your short note with one to John Slack, as well. We are so grateful for your still loyal and true concern for the organization. Hope your health will improve to allow you to come to another reunion soon. Sincere best wishes.

**CHARLES L. JONES**

**MECOSTA, MI:** DON, thank you for the recent check for the P.F. As we said in our note to you, that is one pretty area of the state of Michigan. Thoroughly enjoyed several trips into your area, especially Mt.

Pleasant, the site of Central Michigan University, where I spent many years on their Instructor Staff teaching at the many military bases around the East Coast, mainly. Best wishes. **DON WERNETTE**

**SOUTH YARMOUTH, ME:** JEAN, thank you so much for the nice note and your check for the P.F. To send you the ITEM is the least that we can do for you and the other widows on our mailing list. Five of them attended the Atlanta Reunion and we were glad to see them. Gabriel's entry into Oflag 64 in February 1943 came from his capture in N. Africa in the 1st Armored Div. He was not alone, for that mix-up brought many from that Division together. Gen. Waters was the most well remembered by many of us. Keep in touch with news about you and your interests there in South Yarmouth, so that others who knew Gabe can hear that you are all right.

**JEAN (MRS. GABRIEL) GEVER**

**LOVELAND, CO:** MRS. CHRISTENSEN, only a few days ago Marvin Chevalier sent us the sad news of your recent loss of Bob while we were in Atlanta. We saw him last in 1991 at the Norfolk Reunion, and news of his death took us by surprise. Lou Gherig's Disease is very painful and we all hope that it was of a somewhat short duration. All of us send our deepest condolences to you and your family. **MRS. BOB**

**CHRISTENSEN**

**CALIFON, NJ:** WIN, so many of us were saddened by the news of Jim's death which reached us while we were at the Annual Reunion of the Oflag 64 Gang. We had hoped for his recovery from his recent illness. Jim was so well known and respected by many of us over the years. He always attended the reunions and was full of joy and fun. Your attendance with him made it doubly nice. Please accept our deepest sympathy and know that you and your family are in our prayers during this trying time.

**WIN (MRS. JIM) BALL**

**NUMEROUS PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES** in our country are still without a copy of "OFLAG 64, The Fiftieth Anniversary Book." You can help these institutions in their efforts to give students an understanding of how World War II affected the lives of their grandparents' generation. At the same time, we can claim a tax deduction for such a gift!

This well written book is worth many times more than its retail price to the Kriegies who were there in the memories it revives. After fifty years, incidents and daily activities of our lives have faded, and a feeling exists that there is no longer an interest. That is not true! Your grandchildren and their age group are now seeing television documentations of World War II and need to know of their own family's participation. None of the documentaries mention American Prisoners of War, but "Oflag 64" is such a record, and one that will stimulate your own special memories of events in your life that are not recorded in any book or film. You can order a copy/copies for \$50.00 each from:

Bill Cory  
2843 Brownsboro Road  
Louisville, KY 40206

**THE EDITORS**

**GLADWYNE, PA:** At the Reunion in Atlanta, Bill Warthen had on display, among other things, a verbal interview by General John K. Waters that was in the archives at Carlisle War College. He had learned about it and had gotten George Herr of Lancaster to get a copy for him.

This is a fascinating interview, which I will make available to anyone who sends in the cost of copying and mailing. The total cost will be \$19.50. This interview is over 60 pages on two sides to reduce postage. This recounts his story from Lessouda to Sidi-Bou-Zid to Hammelburg and back to the States. It's a must for those who knew General Waters and all that he stood for. Just send

an order with check to Herb Garris in Pinehurst:  
P.O. Box 1693  
Pinehurst, NC 28374

**JOHN SLACK**

**PINEHURST, NC:** Some thoughts on the very successful reunion in Atlanta in October. Bill Warthen and Dot and Ellen, their daughter, were not only there constantly, but helped in an orderly registration and throughout the entire program schedule. The Holders, Harrells, Grauls, Brittos and Peeples were equally present and served admirably. Many thanks to them and their wives.

You will find a copy of the attendees, the program highlights to show you the planning that was required for such a splendid program. The Terrace Garden was a very wise choice with a pleasant and comfortable environment and cooperative aides in all departments.

The most welcome and highly respected of our members in attendance was Ellen Bryan with her son Bill and daughter Norvell. She added a sense of dignity and lots of fun—so like her and the great personality she has. So glad she came. It meant so much to all of us.

Gen. Spigelmire's video and slide show on the progress of Atlanta's preparations for the Olympics next summer was especially well handled and informational. His interesting talk was very well done. You can't conceive the astronomical budget described, the wide coverage of well-heeled sponsors, the physical planning well underway of all event sites, and the heritage assured Atlanta and its environs and education at universities who will benefit from the vast and useful facilities required. It is a tribute to the Organization planners.

The business meeting addressed a real problem of finances with our P.F. A study in letter form is enclosed in this issue of the **ITEM**. It was read and the reactions were indeed most favorable with many checks and cash gladly submitted. But those gifts are from almost the same proportion as those of our members who normally support the P.F. The agreement of a voluntary contribution

annually of \$25.00 or more was passed. It requires some positive interest and follow-thru now of those not present in Atlanta. So, if you enjoy the **ITEM** and want to contribute regularly, mail what you feel you can send comfortably and willingly. Dues and subscriptions were discussed and promptly shelved to enable the organization to operate as it has for fifty years, as a voluntary service organization responsible only to the fellow members. The addresses of the staff as shown on page 2 may be used in mailing your check to us. We, in Atlanta, and overall join in asking your assistance to make our financial status well above the rock bottom condition of this past few months. The appeal is particularly directed at members who in the past years have not sent in any news and, worse yet, have not contributed at all. We welcome your kind attention and generosity at an early date.

The memorial service was dignified, respectful and so appropriate. Our deep thanks to Chaplain Powers, Don Gaul, and Roy and Helen Chappell for their fine presentation.

Next year, in 1996, we head west to the heartland of Des Moines with "Hub" Hubbell in command.

**HERB GARRIS**

**MIAMI, FL:** SID, we heard you had a sick brother that you needed to stay with instead of joining us. We hope all is well or on the mend and you were missed. **SID THAL**

**BRANDON, MS:** FLORENTINE AND TOM, how we missed you. Sorry you picked up a bug and were not able to come to the reunion. Wanted to hear about the Far Hill trip and Oak Ridge Military. **TOM HOLT**

**HAMMELBURG, GERMANY, 27 March 1945, JAY** tells the story of his return to American lines beginning at the announcement by the Task Force Commander that he has no choice but to stay in place and fight.

"... At this point, Col. Goode, the Senior American POW Officer, announced that he felt that most of the task force POWs wanted to return to the camp and they started the walk back. A few POWs, mostly former armored force people, stayed with the task force. I turned to Edward Lockert, who had been my travel buddy since leaving Oflag 64, and said "let's head west." Ed replied that he was going back to camp with the others. Two fellow POWs, overhearing my conversation with Ed, said they would go with me, so Robert Corbin, Warren Smith, and I became a team and headed west on foot.

Our first thought was to put as much distance between us and the task force as possible before first light. We traveled at a fast pace for about two hours until the first hint of daylight, then found a good hiding place in thick bushes to wait out the day.

We had left Oflag XIII B with our Polish great coats, gloves and hats but no blankets. Our food supply consisted of one loaf of bread that I had taken from a German truck the task force had knocked out. I also had an "escape compass" that the Germans had not found since leaving Oflag 64.

A little before mid-morning we heard the German 88s firing at the task force and in a short while the firing ceased. A couple hours later we saw members of the task force heading west on foot and knew the task force was destroyed or captured. All that first day we saw POWs and German soldiers playing hide-and-seek. We stayed put, close to the ground and well hidden throughout the day.

**DAY 2:** When full darkness closed in we left our hide traveling southwest. We masked the white of our face and hands at the first opportunity that mud was available. We did not travel roads or pass through villages. When we came to a road or village we back-tracked, went around or changed direction. For every mile we traveled west we went two miles north or south.

As night progressed, we entered extensive pine forest plantations and found that the only way to travel thru the pines was to follow in the fire lanes. Every mile or two there would be a wide fire break, some traversing north-south and some east-west. We followed the east-west fire lanes. It was so dark the only way we could maintain our direction was to look up and observe the pine trees on each side silhouetting the fire lane boundaries against the sky.

I was the "point man." Corbin walked ten yards behind me and he was to watch and listen to the flanks; Smitty brought up the rear ten yards behind Corbin and kept a watchful eye and listened to the rear so that we would not be overtaken. The darkness was so intense in the pine forests that when I stopped to listen or consider a change in direction I would first feel Corbin bump into me and then Smitty bump into Corbin. Occasionally the moon would shine through and we could see the dim path we were following in the center of the fire-break.

On one rest period we moved from the moonlight path to the corner of the pines and shortly after we sat down to rest a German patrol came down the path we had just vacated. Lesson No. 1: Don't take a rest break unless you are well hidden.

**DAY 3:** We ate the last of our bread before leaving our daylight hide. This was the night of the river crossings. We made three river crossings. I am sure it was the same river meandering back and forth across our westerly path. Using the bridges was out as the rivers formed a natural funnel and the Germans had placed guards on each bridge to pick up the fleeing POWs. At each river crossing we would disrobe, tie our clothes and shoes in a bundle and swim or walk across the river. Upon reaching the opposite side we used our hands as a squeegee to remove the water then redress.

After three river crossings our clothes were damp and we started looking for our day hide. We came to a RR track and a 10' x 10' frame story and a half building located next to the tracks. The first floor was vacant. The attic floor was accessible thru a door in the gable end and we climbed up through this door into the attic. This wasn't the best hiding place but we were cold and the building was dry and warmer than the

ground.

**DAY 4:** At full light we awoke. Daylight was shining thru the spaces between the vertical board siding. We observed that we were on one side of a wide and fairly open valley. The RR tracks were on one side and a road paralleled the tracks about 2000 yards away on the other side. A river ran through the center of the valley. A road cut across the valley, over the river and RR tracks. This day brought a fortunate find and also the closest encounter to recapture.

About mid-morning we observed a German army truck stop on the road on the far side. A squad of men left the truck and traveled in formation across the river bridge and entered a wooded area on our side of the valley. After a few minutes, they returned bringing ten Russian POWs with them. They loaded the captives into the truck and drove off.

That afternoon another German army truck appeared with six soldiers. They proceeded to place mines in the bridge road bed. While they were busy placing the mines, the soldiers that appeared to be in charge noticed our building and walked over to investigate. The inquisitive soldier entered the first floor then came out and started to the opposite end where the door to the attic was located. We crouched by the door, each armed with a short wood club, waiting for him to open the door. Just as he was about to round the corner, one of his men called to him and he returned to the bridge and they all left. The remainder of the day was spent resting with one man on guard.

When darkness arrived, we opened the gable door and there laying on the ground was one of Corbin's U.S. Army issue gloves. The wool knit glove with a leather facing was easily identified as U.S. Army. If the inquisitive soldier had seen the glove and knew of the POW release I am sure he would have summoned his squad and made an armed check of the attic. Before leaving the valley we decided to check out the wooded area where the Russian POWs had been just in case they left anything of value. On the floor of the wooded area we found a number of small food packets. Each was a cellophane wrapped package containing five cookies, a fruit bar, some dextrose wafers and small candies the flavor of coffee. After eating our fill and dividing the remaining packets we continued west. This lucky find provided nourishment for the next three days.

**DAY 5:** The terrain was now becoming more open with rolling hills. The open grass areas had been terraced years ago forming grass pastures for cattle. The terrace walls from 1 to 10 feet tall became our greatest hazard. The nights were still overcast and dark and as point man I was the first to fall over the terrace walls. From the base I would call up to warn Corbin or Smitty of the impending danger trying not to alert any Germans that may be nearby. We encountered several terraces but fortunately did not get injured except for scratches and bruises.

**DAY 6:** As daylight approached we were back in the hilly pine forests and looked for our daylight hide. We had noticed that late evening and early morning was a time of increased German activity. Therefore, it was necessary to locate our day hide each morning before it was light enough to pick the best spot. This morning we found a dense growth of bushes, moved in covering ourselves with pine needles, leaves and sticks, then fell asleep. Sometime in the early morning I was awakened. I slowly turned my head and noticed our hide was located on the edge of a deep cut in the earth. The cut ran from the top of a large hill to the bottom. We later determined it was a log slide. I then saw what awakened me. A platoon of German soldiers in full field gear was climbing up the hill in the "log slide" and would pass within six feet of us. It was too late to warn Corbin & Smith who were still sleeping. Fortunately the Germans were tired and interested in their footing so they passed by us with their heads down. If they had looked up and our way we would have been spotted as we were laying at their eye level. After a few minutes passed I alerted the others and we moved to a better hide.

On one occasion we met a uniformed German nearly face to face. We were approaching a road when I saw the moonlight reflect from his belt buckle. The German stood still and apparently was also aware of my presence. I stopped and soon felt Corbin and Smith as they arrived. We were still armed with the log clubs from the RR house. At this point the German decided his best course of action was to say



"Goot Morgen" and proceeded on his way. We left in the opposite direction, found a stream in which we walked for quite a distance to mask our scent in case the German returned with dogs and help.

DAY 7: Early this morning we came upon an isolated farm and decided to spend the day in the barn. The cold nights and hard ground were beginning to take their toll and we needed a warm rest. We moved slowly into the barn and up into the hay mow. Knowing the farmer would be up in the mow to fork hay down to the stock, we moved to the outside walls and dug deep into the hay. During the day we could overhear the farmer and his wife making many references to the Americans and we assumed our army was getting close.

When darkness closed, we left the barn, but not before filling our pockets with feed potatoes. We were still in a semi-wooded area but it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep to the woods. We made good progress tonight — no rivers, terraces or encounters.

DAY 8: This was our last day to hide. It was uneventful except for seeing a German civilian walking through the woods. He stopped and dug into the ground removing his rifle wrapped in a blanket then proceeded on his way. This guy you would not want to meet.

DAY 9: After traveling some distance we holed up early as we were getting weak. Our stomachs had rejected the potatoes. Our water supply had been from rivers and irrigation ditches and slowly our strength was ebbing.

When morning arrived, we found our hide was on the edge of a cultivated field and a large village was located to the southwest. A road ran southeast towards the village. As we watched the road, we thought we were seeing American army vehicles, but they were too distant to be certain. At this point we decided to take a chance and walk to the road. A German farmer was plowing the field with oxen—we waved as we walked by.

The first vehicle to come by was a jeep with two signalmen. We stopped the jeep and told them we were American POWs and that they were the first American military people we had seen. We must have looked suspicious with our beards, muddied faces and Polish army great coats. Their response was "where are the front lines?" Then the driver put the jeep in reverse, turned around and headed back down the road. This didn't bother us as we were elated that we were now in American controlled territory.

The next vehicle was a 3/4 ton with two combat engineers. After relating our story they told us that Gen. Patton had set up a receiving station for the Hammelburg POWs and they drove us there. We had a big breakfast, then we showered, shaved and were issued clean clothing.

We were the last POWs and task force people to arrive at the station. We brought the number to 17 (15 POWs and 2 from the task force, an officer and a 1st Sgt.)

After returning to American control on April 5 we were sent to Camp Lucky Strike and then home. On May 5 we were arriving in New York harbor on a ship with 700 former POWs."

**JAY A. DRAKE**

9028 Marywood Dr.  
Stanwood, MI 49346  
(616) 972-2468

A FINANCIAL STATEMENT

7 September 1995

I would like to inform you of our Financial Status and offer some statistics which may be interesting to you. Bringing our last audit up to date our total income was \$4828.03, and our total expenditures were \$3907.01.

The period covered was from August 17, 1994 thru August 19, 1995. This left us with a balance of \$921.02, which means we have just held our own over the past year.

We have a total of 459 members of our latest mailing list which includes the wives of deceased members which is 61. Of the total enrollment we have about 23% that contribute to the Postage Fund. That includes some of the members are deceased but whose wives feel they should continue to donate to the Fund. It would be great if every member who receives a copy of THE ITEM did. This way we would not have to worry that at some point ahead we may not be able to publish it and mail it out.

As you know at sometime in the past we were able to underwrite some expenses of the reunions, yet we are fortunate this year under Bill's management it has supported itself entirely.

Our organization is growing smaller and smaller each year, so we have to make some serious decisions soon for the next few years ahead.

Listed below are some figures which have been retrieved to show some light of our contributors and why we have been able to just barely keep our head above the water.

This note is an appeal and written to show you how we stand at the present and to welcome from you some ideas as to which way we may proceed to stay a smooth running and fiscally sound organization.

CONTRIBUTIONS

9 @ \$10.00 = \$ 90.00	1 @ \$35.00 = \$ 35.00
2 @ 15.00 = 30.00	29 @ 50.00 = 1450.00
1 @ 17.00 = 17.00	1 @ 60.00 = 60.00
17 @ 20.00 = 340.00	1 @ 75.00 = 75.00
24 @ 25.00 = 600.00	12 @ 100.00 = 1200.00
5 @ 30.00 = 150.00	1 @ 200.00 = 200.00

TOTAL \$4247.00

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Levin

**PLEASE LET YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE  
GUIDE YOU IN A REMEDY FOR THE  
ABOVE PROBLEM.**

**JOHN SLACK/HERB GARRIS**

ATLANTA OFLAG 64 1995 REUNION

MARY JANE BARKOVIC  
EDWARD AND ELIZABETH BATTE  
O.L. "BRAD" BRADFORD  
GEORGE AND BETTY BRITTO  
ELLEN, NORVELL AND BILL BRYAN  
ROGER AND RUBY CANNON  
ALBERT AND DOROTHY CECIL  
ROY AND HELEN CHAPPELL  
ROBERT CHEATHAM  
MARVIN AND FAYE CHEVALIER  
TONY AND ROSE CIPRIANI  
JOHN AND DOROTHY CRAMER  
VINCENT J. DEFRANCESCO  
FRANK DIGGS  
JAY AND BETTY DRAKE  
ROBERT (BOB) AND LILLIE ECKMAN  
LESTER AND EDIE EDSALL  
THURSTON GARRETT  
HERB GARRIS  
JANE GRAFFAGNINO  
DONALD O. GRAUL  
WILLIAM AND DUNA HARRELL  
JEROME R. HATCH  
WALTER AND GLORIA HEISLER  
BOOMER AND CLEMENTI HOLDER  
V.C. "HUB" AND ARLENE HUBBELL  
MILT AND DOT JELLISON  
ERROL AND CECILIA JOHNSON  
CHAPLAIN FRANK AND MRS POWERS  
JACK RATHBONE  
AMANDA RHODES  
TED AND BARBARA RINEHART  
ALVIN AND MARTHA ROBIN  
HERVEY AND DOT ROBINSON  
HENRY AND JOAN SCHULTE  
CURTIS AND NORMA JONES  
VICTOR (VIC) AND MARCIA KANNERS  
MARTIN KEISER  
DICK AND HELEN REID KELLAHAN  
RAY KLINGENBORG  
WILLIAM (BILL) AND EVELYN KORBER  
PAUL AND MARY KUNKLE  
PAUL AND LUCY LAMPRU  
ROYAL AND HARRIETT LEE  
ORSA DEFRANCESCO LEE  
HERMAN AND LUCY LITTMAN  
LEWIS AND JANET LOWE  
DONALD AND LUCY LUSSENDEN  
JIM AND NAN MACAREVEY  
CLARENCE R. MELTESEN  
TOM AND ELENNOR MILLER  
THOMAS MITCHELL  
JACK MONAGHAN  
THEODORE (TED) AND ADELE PAMLOSKI  
ROD AND EVELYN PEEPLES  
JOE AND JOANNE SERINGER  
JIM AND JEFF SHERMAN  
JOHN SLACK  
MATT AND BEL SMITH  
ROY AND KARIN SMITH  
HENRY SODERBERG  
GEN. MICHAEL AND DIANE SPIGELMIRE  
JOHN, BETTIE AND GRAY STANSELI  
JOCK AND LORRAINE SUTHERLAND  
BOB AND GLADYS THOMPSON  
JACK AND LYNNE VAN VLIET  
JOHN AND SHIRLEY VOLLENTINE  
DONALD AND CASSIE WAFUL  
WARREN AND BETTY WALTERS  
BILL, DOT AND ELLEN WARTHEN

Obituaries

Robert C. Christensen, 77, of 5 Marmac Drive in Loveland, died Oct. 4, 1995, at McKee Medical Center in Loveland.

He was born Sept. 22, 1918, in Davenport, Iowa, to Carl Christensen and Meta Wisch Christensen. He graduated from Davenport High School and then attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where he first received his bachelor's degree and then his



Juris Doctor in 1942. He married Jean Davenport May 19, 1943, in Tallahassee, Fla. On Feb. 9, 1942, he entered the U.S. Army and served in Normandy, Northern France, Germany and Central Europe Campaigns. He received the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with four bronze battle stars, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was a prisoner of war in Germany for several months. He was discharged Jan. 10, 1946, with a rank of major.

Juris Doctor in 1942.

He married Jean Davenport May 19, 1943, in Tallahassee, Fla.

On Feb. 9, 1942, he entered the U.S. Army and served in Normandy, Northern France, Germany and Central Europe Campaigns. He received the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with four bronze battle stars, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was a prisoner of war in Germany for several months. He was discharged Jan. 10, 1946, with a rank of major.

*Jean Herb*

Robert C. Christensen

Following military service he came to Loveland and began his law practice with John Cross. He practiced law in Loveland from 1945 to 1985.

He was a member of the Loveland Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, American Arbitration Association, Colorado and Larimer County Bar Association, Security Title Company, director with Home State Bank, Loveland Camera Club, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Oflag 64 Association and the 112th Infantry Regiment Association. Mr. Christensen was also a member of the Foothills Audubon Club, board member of the Loveland Parks and Recreation, and a board member of the city of Loveland Employees Pension Fund.

He attended Mountain View Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Christensen of Loveland; a son, Brian R. Christensen of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; a daughter, Ann Marie Obarski and husband Gregory of Louisville; two brothers, Alvin C. Christensen and wife Marjorie of Rockford, Ill., and George L. Christensen and wife Judy of Troy, Mich.; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Virginia Mae Skantz, and a brother-in-law, Clifford Skantz.

Cremation with memorial services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, from Kibbey-Fishburn Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. Robert D. Dooling officiating.

A private family burial will be in Loveland Burial Park Columbarium.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Loveland Public Library, Colorado Nature Conservancy or Larimer Land Trust.

*October 25, 1995*

*Thank you for kind words of sympathy and understanding in the loss of Bob. Bob had received a diagnosis of Lewy Body Disease over a year ago. As a family we rejoice that he suffers no longer. He had not been happy with his quality of life for some time: he had difficulty walking, gardening was frustrating, yes, we grieve at our loss, but carry wonderful memories of our 52 years together.*

*Enclosed is a copy of the newspaper printing about Ben. Also enclosed is a copy of the eulogy which you may omit if it is not appropriate to the use in The Item.*

*Sincerely  
Jean Christensen*

*5 Marmac Ave  
Loveland, CO 80538*

## EULOGY

for

Robert C. Christensen

given by

The Rev. Mr. Donald R. Mitchell

October 10, 1995

During the late 1940's, all during the decades of the 50's, 60's, and 70's, and during the first half of the 1980's, a tall "Lincolnesque" man could be seen every work day walking down town and then returning in the afternoon. If he went down town on Garfield, he came back on Cleveland and vice versa. He had a long-set stride; it was his way of walking that was very distinguishable. It was not the march-step he had known during his Army service; it was not the limited lock-step he was required to follow as a P.O.W.; it was the step of one who was learning to walk to another pace. It was his pace dictated by recovery from malnutrition as a P.O.W. and by his own personal perception. It was his way. The man, of course, was Bob Christensen.

His was the stride of a man of strong principles and unswerving high ideals.

He often told me, in the thirty five years that I knew him, that this was his time - it was his time to think, to put together the philosophy, the gardening, the theology, the bird study, and the photography which he had spent time the evening before reading. He wanted to join these things to his plans for his day ahead.

Bob was the most unified man I've ever known, yet with the broadest scope of interests and always as a man of highest principles:

His family was always first and foremost in his mind.

He loved the world of his Creator. (When he and Jean visited us in Superior, Wisconsin, in 1983, we sat and watched the ships come into the harbor right past the coffee shop. He wanted to know if I knew of any good places to take unique pictures.)

He loved his garden and grieved at its demise this summer.

He served his church through his profession. There were many things that had to be done to clear the title to the property which the church proposed to purchase. I asked him, on the side, "Can we get that little triangle of land which lay between the old highway and the corner of 25th and Garfield cleared up?" (If he couldn't do that, then I was in danger, when standing in the pulpit, of being run over by the traffic of the old abandoned highway.) He gave me an answer in a few days that, "It can be cleared." Then we assigned to him the duty of taking care of all the necessary transactions involved in clearing all the titles to the land which the church had purchased. Here is where his profession as a good lawyer came in: he didn't bother us with details; he just informed us after a short period of time that everything was complete.

He did his job, he did it quietly, he did it well.

Yes, he was a walker - he walked with a sense of his principles and his purpose. His legs began to fail him in recent years until finally he couldn't really walk anymore. In his weakness, God, like Enoch of old, took his hand,

renewed his strength,

and led him Home.

There, I'm sure, he has taken up his strong, true, and determined stride. (Can any of us be sure how much of Heaven he has already explored?)

He continues to walk in the footsteps of His Master.