

VOL. XXXX

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

APRIL 1996

NOTICE*****NOTICE*****NOTICE

The 1996 reunion will be held on September 25-29 in Des Moines, Iowa, at the University Park Holiday Inn. Please note this is a departure from our usual October date. This change is necessitated by the Holiday Inn's schedule. Information on registration and lodging reservations will follow at the end of this ITEM. The agenda will be presented in the July ITEM, Robert Eckman and Verris Hubble have some fine plans worked out for our enjoyment. We look forward to seeing our Kriegie friends once again.

PINEHURST, NC: Many of you have inquired about John Slack since receiving our January issue notifying of his heart surgery. There have been some complications, but John is working as hard as ever with therapeutic exercises and minding his lovely daughter, Margie, to recover. Please continue sending him and Mary your prayers and cards as they all mean so much to him.

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION:

This issue of the ITEM has been made possible by one sizable contribution of over \$800. The member who provided this extremely generous amount has requested that it be made specifically from an anonymous person. Over the past few years he has always been reliable, regular and consistent in his support of

the Postage Fund. It is with honor and pride that we receive this rare and most welcome exemplary contribution, and our appreciation goes out to him.

In his letter he remarked about his own and his family's personal deep thanks for the quality and warmth of the ITEM with its news items and book reviews.

This is a follow through from the Atlanta reunion for a member made a recommendation from the floor that one individual could bear the entire cost of one issue. A contributor of this amount is a first, and if followed by others, who feel this strongly and are able, their assistance will be warmly received and wisely used as well. For example, the January issue contained 14 pages and came to \$620.

This issue will be a bit larger, but is mailed to you at a bulk mail rate that is a lower cost than the first class which we chose to use in January. The donor agreed to let this contribution cover the cost of this issue and any amount left over could be used in the following issue.

Speaking for the entire membership, we send our deepest thanks for this gesture of kind generosity.

HERB GARRIS

VIDALIA, GA: Your very thoughtful letter in early January with the bundle of wrap-up Reunion checks made all the difference in the world with the P.F. drive. You and all the members who so kindly turned over many refunds to the P.F. are to be thanked so much. Arriving in Atlanta with only about \$600 in our treasury was a very serious fiscal crisis. The call was answered so magnificently that today, as this issue goes to press, the bank account is winning over the previous problem. We all agree that Dot, Ellen and you, with a fine committee, truly made the October reunion the ultimate success that it was. Congratulations to all of our members who have helped turn things around into a growing solid base of operations.

My impression of Atlanta and the endangered area near the hotel will take some additional time to be completely repaired from Opal. Many thanks, again, for such a great performance, and my best wishes to Ellen, Dot and you.

BILL WARTHEN

GENEVA, NY: Mart, thank you so much for your note and check for the P.F. As you head south to sunny Florida, have fun. It seems quite a way across New York from the Finger Lakes, near you, to the Hudson River to visit Les and Florence Warren. Give them my best in your next letter.

The weather in January and February here in North Carolina, while certainly not as severe as yours, surely got our attention with the ice, sleet and snow plus high winds. Glad to hear both you and Joan are in good health. Keep it up.

MARTIN LAWLER

BATON ROUGE, LA: Gordon, thank you for your very long and entertaining letter and the check for the P.F.

Your report of the audacious trek with Garvin Fitton on the old German truck, prompted by the recent report in the earlier ITEM, was quite an excursion. Did the ice house reference and your securing Bill Paty mean the dairy farm there out of Exin, under the aegis of Baron Von Rosen, the transient German landlord? About six others of us were in the same barn and hay stack until the next day when we missed the appell.

Saw John Stansell and his family in Atlanta and we had a number of good talks with each other that weekend. While there he gave me a copy of the cachet presentation which we had printed as did the American EX-POW/MIA.

Glad you enjoyed the North African cruise. We did a somewhat similar one just about four years ago. Best wishes to Marty and you.

GORDON SMITH

LADY LAKE, FL: Harold, thank you and Helen for your nice letter and check for the P.F. We did miss you in Atlanta, which we figured would not be too far to come, but understand your situation. Let's try in September to get up to The Bridges of Madison County in Iowa.

Your remarks about the ITEM were so very much appreciated. It has worked for a long time due to such loyal folks, like you two, who have helped to make it so. Best wishes to you and Helen.

HAROLD TALLMAN

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND USE: Postage Fund checks should be sent to one of the Secretary-Treasurers and letters with news or general information to the Secretary-Treasurer or the Guest Editors.

CHANDLER, AZ: Reid, thank you for the check for the P.F. and the order for "An Oral History - Gen. Waters." It was promptly dispatched to you, and hope you enjoy it very much. Glad you got in touch with Duane Kennedy in nearby Sun City. Missed him in Atlanta and hope we will see him in Des Moines. If you can, please see again if Bob Scott's son can be more specific about his dad, Chaplain Bob Scott, on his condition. Congratulations on such a wonderful recovery from your quadruple heart bypass procedure back in 1989. You are amazing with the physical activities you still pursue. I suspect your heart doctor would like to show you off as a true example of therapy and discipline at its best. We were happy to receive your letters with the picture of your free-fall exhibit on your 80th birthday. WOW! Your approach is full steam ahead! Not too many guys your age can enter the Arizona Sr. Olympics and in so many events: 1500 meter racewalk, standing and running long jump, high jump, discus, shot and javelin. Sure sorry your doctor said, "nix" for "nicht zehr gut" for your doing sprints. But can tell it did not ruin your day. Keep it up, and our best wishes for many such olympics again.

REID ELLSWORTH



OWEGO, NY: Hugh, many thanks for your check for the P.F. It came to me in a roundabout way from John Slack, who forwarded it. Forgive me for carrying the home town of yours as Oswego, and it is now correctly shown. All the best.

HUGH HOGAN

VERO BEACH, FL: Kathryn, thank you for your nice letter and your thoughtfulness to send a check for our P.F. You expressed your appreciation of learning about your bother, John Slack's, recent surgery. I am so glad we were able to let everyone know in the January ITEM. Perhaps it will be possible to stay in closer touch with each other from now on. He seemed glad of this, also. I spoke to him recently and he is undergoing therapy to regain some of the coordination that the stroke took from him. Magie is up there in Gladwyne every possible weekend, though almost all of her leave is about used up with United Airlines.

KATHRYN S. JOLLEY

FORT PIERCE, FL: Rosa, thank you for the pretty card of the old Hessian stone barracks from up in Frederick, MD. Also, the return of the brochure from Brookgreen Gardens near Myrtle Beach, SC. I hope that on one of your trips north along Route US 17 that you and your family can take time out off I-95 and go to see it. An amazing and most fascinating collection, so well done.

I will be seeing your folks there in Bethesda in a short while on the next visit to D.C. That is one of the highlights when I go there. Vince Di Francesco came to Atlanta and Rosa escorted him and was made so very welcome. Many thanks again.

ROSA DI FRANCESCO LEE

MILLEN, GA: Jim, many thanks for your quick reply to me and your check for the P.F. which is so welcome. The news of your move back to Georgia was noted on the address labels. I pulled out my copy of "Soldiers of Misfortune, and you are correct on your unit 442 being referenced. We were not far from you in October in Atlanta, so please try now for Des Moines in September. Best wishes.

JAMES YOUNG

NEWPORT BEACH, CA: Carl, thank you so much for the long overdue letter. The money for the P.F. was very welcome and thanks. More interesting to me was the account that you gave me of Harold Carroll and his serious health problems. His last letter to me went into some detail about it and while it reads sad he so willingly told me about it. See Charlie Cain, your old friends from New York, almost each week in his dazzling Book Place. He spent the summer up off the coast of Cape Cod and came home nice and tanned, rested and in good spirits. Best regards.
CARL F. CLAWSON

NEWBURYPORT, MA: Mike, welcome news from a site just south of the New Hampshire boundary line. Your short note and the check for the P.F. were received and thank you very much. Please forgive our having sent you copies of the ITEM for years with the incorrect family name spelling, you will find it corrected in the April issue. Warm regards to Elvira and you.
MICHAEL J. PIECUCH

LEXINGTON, VA: Morris, thank you for your very nice catch-up letter from an earlier one, with no news at all. Hope you will make the Dartmouth class reunion in June. While you indicated some serious health problems it simply doesn't show in the spirit of your writing. On one of my trips north to D.C. to see our kids, if I gave you a call a little in advance, could I stop over for a cup of coffee and see you for a few minutes? Maybe even glance at Washington and Lee and V.M.I.? I would be honored. Keep in touch, please.
H. J. MORRIS JONES

ROCK ISLAND, IL: Jack, came across your name in another letter from Bill Warthen and the fact that you were good friends and had been in the same unit. So you and Lorraine came and sparked up the Atlanta muster. Thank you for your check for the P.F. My best wishes.
JOHN R. SUTHERLAND

WORCESTER, MA: Irv, while you didn't write a note and it doesn't matter, the check for the P.F. came. Many thanks for that. We hope you are well again and will be able to travel to Des Moines in September. Good Luck.
IRVING YAROCK

WEST BOYLSTON MA: Ormond, always glad to hear from you. Missed you in Atlanta, so let's try for Des Moines. We got the two checks for the "Oral History - Gen. Waters" book and the P.F. Many thanks.

Your remarks about the ITEM are so kind, yet, without good regular correspondents like you, there would be little news to print and make it a success, which most of us regard it.

Your health and morale sound good to me. Very best.
ORMOND A ROBERTS

MT. PLEASANT, SC: Pat, thank you for your call and the chance to get to know you a little better. No doubt by now you have received your six copies of "An Oral History - Gen. Waters," and I think your idea to place them where they will be available to your close family and children is laudatory. You will find that the book review which is in this issue of the ITEM has been placed in the cover sheet of each book for it surely expresses the thoughts of all who knew him and served with him, a rare experience for all of us.

In addition, to balance off the story of those who found a window and took advantage of it, is my short bit enlightening details of the trip some of us made into the heart of Poland and on to Odessa, where a Liberty Ship took us through Istanbul, Port Said, and to Naples. I hope you will enjoy it for it was far less painful than the reading attached to the long march to Parchim, then the train ride south to Hammelburg, and events which took place there.

Finally, we are so appreciative of your assistance to the P.F., and we are delighted that you asked for copies of the book. My warm regards to you and your family.
PAT WATERS

LAGUNA VISTA, TX: Bill, thank you very much for the check for the P.F. Missed you both in Atlanta and please try for Des Moines this coming September. With our group scattered far and wide, the ITEM has become our connecting link helping us to stay in touch. But the reunions are like icing on the cake. Our best wishes to you and Margaret.
BILL FABIAN

SAN RAFAEL, CA: Matt, thank you for two things: the check to the P.F. and the book review of Professor Calabro up at West Point on "Black '41." My unrest was very close to yours and the one at West Point, and with as many obvious errors, it does not deserve being reviewed by me in the ITEM. Thank you even so for the assist you gave me in finding it, finally. Warm regards to Bel and you.
MATTHEW C. SMITH

HUNTINGBURG, IN: Warren, your check for the P.F. came and many thanks for it. It had been forwarded down from Gladwyne by John Slack. My best to Frances and you.
WARREN EVANS

HUNTSVILLE, AL: Bob, many thanks for your check for the P.F. Thank you, also, for the nice words about the ITEM. Each issue is a challenge, but folks like Janis and you make it a lot easier. My best wishes to you both.
ROBERT T. LANGLEY

HENDERSONVILLE, NC: John many thanks for your nice letter and the enclosure on the medal cases. Know how pleased you are with the splendid find and at such a reasonable cost. They are precious items indeed and need to be enclosed. So, if any of us want to do a service for our families, it would be money well spent for them. The company name:

Medals of America
1929 Fairview Road
Fountain Inn, SC 29644
1-803-862-6425 or 7494
FAX 1-800-407-8640

Thank you, too, for your check for the P.F. and a very fine year to Elaine and you.
DR. JOHN L. CREECH

GLENMONT, NY: Alex, your very kind letter came this week with the check for the P.F. You may have sent sometime before the account of your capture. If you have not, try to do your story for it has a lot of good philosophy in it. Your attitude was one which put you in good stead over the days until May 1945. The same is true of the interesting stories which American EX POW/MIA covers each month. Thank you again.
ALEX B. BLOOM

ASHEBORO, NC: Bob, always look forward to Thursdays, your volunteer day at the V.A. hospital center at nearby Statesville, when you try to get a call into me. So pleased that you saw and spoke to General Dodson on the halls there recently while on a routine visit. Look forward to pretty soon getting the "Grass Roots Gang" together there in High Point. Best to Frances and you.
ROBERT CHEATHAM

PITTSFIELD, MA: Tom, many thanks for your check for the P.F. and the order for "An Oral History - Gen. Waters." By now I expect that you have about finished the latter, for it is truly fascinating. I am amazed that you wound up on the same ward with General Waters in the First General Hospital. Then to have such a distinguished visitor come to call - General Patton. I am on the lookout for Carlo D'Este's new book on Patton and some of his research on the Hammelburg raid. Abe Baum's book I keep here near the desk, for what he did was daring and painful - one so badly ill-equipped to do a mission impossible. In your work on the local paper, would you be so kind as to share with me the reviews from time to time? Here in Pinehurst it is my favorite avocation and so worthwhile a pursuit to do reviews. Congratulations on such a similar track. My best wishes and stay in close touch.
THOMAS O. MORTON

BETHESDA, MD: Wilbur, your nice letter meant so much to me as well as the check to the P.F. I will be up in Brookeville in mid March so, as soon as I finalize the dates, I hope to plan a small mini-reunion like the one you mentioned. Mary and you are so deep into many service activities, and we are so proud of you. Best wishes.
WILBUR B. SHARPE.

SYRACUSE, NY: Don, many thanks to you for the short message and your check for the P.F. Your city of Syracuse has seen enough pretty tough winter weather, even so, North Carolina has certainly not been a rose garden either. Can easily see why so many folks fall in love with Florida. Best to Cassie and you.
DONALD R. WAFUL

NORTHWOOD, IA: Charlie, it looks as though you will have less than 100 miles from your home to make the reunion muster in Des Moines this September. I'm so glad that you may be able to join us this year. That would give me a chance to catch up with you on so many unanswered questions that run thru my mind, and only an "ole timer" like you can tell me the straight stuff. Stay in close touch with Bob Eckman and Verris Hubble, both of whom are recovering from slight setbacks. Thank you for your letter and check for the P.V.
CHARLES L. JONES

BRADENTON, FL: Bill, many thanks to you for the check which was so appreciated. Need some news about you from what you and Jean are up to these days. Sorta envy you at being in such a lovely venue along the Gulf Coast side. All the best.
WILLIAM R. GRAY

PUEBLO, CO: John, your check came and it makes the P.F. look better. How lucky you are to sit on the porch and look way to the north and pick up Pikes Peak covered with snow about now. A sight you can't easily forget or even care to! Best wishes.
JOHN W. MILLER

BELLEROSE, NY: Lorraine, your notes have reached us recently with your checks for the P.F. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. We did miss you in Atlanta and to bring your spirits up, why not plan to go west to Des Moines in September with us? We are always so proud to have you ladies with us. There are many others who recall and speak so kindly of your John with such high regard. With our best wishes to you.
MRS. JOHN GLENDINNING

COLUMBIA, SC: Don, thank you for your check for the P.F. as well as an order for "An Oral History - Gen. Waters." Send me a note on your impression of the book a little later on. Meanwhile, for Dot and you, the very best.
DONALD O. GRAUL

ALEXANDRIA, VA: Nat, your check came for the P.F., and thank you very much. Are you still on the volunteer team at the Smithsonian? Let me know which day it is. On one of my next trips, let's get Bob Reppa, near you, for a short lunch session and catch up. I know now John Slack will appreciate your encouragement, with an aorta bypass being on your service record as well as his.
Sincerely,
NATHANIEL R. HOSKOT.

FAYETTEVILLE, NY: Edgar, thanks so much for your addition to the P.F. After this long cold winter, we can all thaw out and look forward to a warm reunion in September over in Des Moines. We look forward to seeing you there. Best wishes.
EDGAR E. JOINER

ATLANTA, GA: Ellen, thank you so much for your check to the P.F. Your note was so uplifting about your enjoyment of the Atlanta reunion. We don't have an age limit on attendees, you know. Your 91 years sound like you surely qualify for next September in Des Moines, alright. Our kind wishes to you.
MRS. WRIGHT BRYAN

WAUSAU, WI: It was so nice of you, Joyce, to do the letter writing for John as we like to know how you both are doing and that the ITEM is important enjoyment to you. Your contribution does ease the P.F., many thanks and our best wishes.
JOHN E. FEHL

LEXINGTON, KY: Wilbur, we thank you for your kind words for the ITEM and your thoughtfulness for the P.F. It is not always easy to write, especially when you've had health problems. But every word is appreciated whenever it arrives. We send our best wishes to you. Take care.
WILBUR WYMAN BISHOP

ENGLAND, AR: Billy, thank you for your P.F. contribution and your order for "An Oral History - Gen. Waters." We thank you, also for your remarks about the Waters' interview, and glad you liked it. Your comments about the growth to 15 feet of the oak sapling he sent you from Maryland were heart warming.
BILLY BINGHAM

SAN ANTONIO, TX: Mary Lou, thank you so much for your check to the P.F., but more important was the message you sent along. It brings to mind something that few members speak of, the source of good information found in the ITEM and your close perception of how valuable it has been to you. You might also want to order a copy of "An Oral History - Gen. Waters." He and Donald were captured in North Africa near the same place and time. It is a fascinating story.

Then my notes show Donald was with the 17th F.A. Bn. at that time, three years earlier at almost June Week at the USMA, CMTC summer camp at nearby Ft. Bragg, the 17th was our Regular Army Instruction Cadre. They sent some truly fine officers and soldiers to lead us that month of training.

Like Donald, who selected teaching as a second career, it was my similar good fortune. Most enjoyable was teaching for Central Michigan University in their graduate extension programs. Best wishes.
MRS. DONALD B. STEWART

COLUMBUS, OH: Stan, it was great hearing from you last fall. You mentioned learning to ride a motorcycle from George Durgin. Guess we were all livelier back then. George is truly missed by all. Best wishes.
STANLEY B. STETSON

LEESBURG, FL: Lynne and Jack, thank you for your check for the P.F. As always, you come through each year with a welcome contribution to us. We are so very grateful. Our drive for the nearly defunct P.F. can be designated a success, thanks to many like you.

While we saw each other fleetingly in Atlanta, I have thought of both of you since and hope that you are well and

enjoying the warm climate of Leesburg.
Best regards.
JOHN H. VAN VLIET, JR.

STANWOOD, MI: Elizabeth and Jay, we thank you and appreciate your check sent to the P.F. Also, we extend our thanks for sending the unabridged copy of your "Nine Days to Freedom." It is very well done, and such a joy to read in the finished format. We are happy to learn that you've received well deserved compliments from the publication of your article on this in the November 1995 ITEM.

In the epilogue of the copy just received, you addressed why you and your teammates, Robert Corbin and Warren Smith, were successful in reaching the main American forces. You discuss an interesting fact of being able to listen to your primordial sense, your well-developed inner voice. This paid off then and all the rest of your lives, no doubt.

Attesting to the value of our reunions, you remarked about the pleasant coincidence of discovering the four of you who, "...were all captured on or about the same date, the same area and shared the same experiences through Oflag 64." Reunions are exciting events for this reason.

We hope you both enjoyed your winter in sunny California. We send you our best wishes.
JAY DRAKE

AUSTIN, TX: We are glad to hear that you are on the mend toward a recovery, keep up the good work. All of us send our best to you and your family. We thank you for adding to the P.F. and look forward to some more news from you soon.
LLOYD WARREN

OWINGS MILL, MD: Lou, what a nice surprise with your recent letter, your check to the P.F. and the two enclosures you sent out of the past with some laudatory remarks in each of your surgical skills both in Szubin and Rembertow. We are especially proud of you and Dr. Vince Di Francesco. With your approval, we feel that the letters from 1983 and 1984 would be of deep interest to our readers. We thank you for sharing this heartwarming bit of past history with us.
DR. LOUIS TANKIN

"HILLSBORO, TX: Feb. 4, 1983 - Dear Dr. Tankin: Although this letter is about 38 years late, I want to thank you for saving my life in Oflag 64, and on the cold move by the Russians.

I have been kicking myself all these years that I could not remember your name.

This meeting of Oflag 64 EXES was the first one I attended. In my conversation with Dr. Di Francesco when he mentioned your name, I said, Gee thats the Dr. I have been trying to remember.

To refresh your memory I had a kidney infection, and was in the bed next to Wright Bryan. In fact the day the Russians came by I was out with a high temperature. It was only by your patience, the small amount of sulfa drug, and of course as Father Brach reminded us by the grace of God that I made it.

You did an outstanding job, because although the effects lingered, and the VA could not, or would not, find any effects in their tests, I was able to spend 36 years in the grocery business. I retired Dec. 31 and although I had heart attacks in 1974 and another in 1978, I can still be active and lead a normal life.

So again let me express my heartfelt thanks, and if you should ever be in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area please give me a call.... Perhaps we can make Las Vegas reunion in 84.

Sincerely, ALTON A. LENTZ" (Al and Nadine did make the reunion, but in June 1991, Al passed away). He added a P.S. "I hope you can read this. I sort of got spoiled by having a Girl Friday to do my typing."

"WACO, TX: August 8, 1984 - Dear Dr. Tankin: Are you the "Tank" I remember from Oflag 64 days who ran the "dispensary" at Rembertow?

Enclosed is a copy of a couple of pages from my kriegie memoirs which I turned out for my children back in December, 1970.

In the preface of these memoirs, I stated that my intention was to record what I remembered before memory fades further.....and if you are "Tank," you can see that my memory did not serve to dredge up, correctly, Tankin, and that I composed the name "Tankersley." Sorry about that.

I'd like to know, however, if you recognize yourself in these two pages.

Thanks,
PAUL MARABLE

I got your name and address from John Slack, editor of the Oflag Item.

PNEUMONIA

By the time we reached our building I was feeling worse than I could ever remember, and I flopped on the straw in the corner of the room several of us shared and went to sleep.

Sometime later, Don woke me up trying to get me to sit up. With him was Lieutenant Tankersley, the combat doctor who, too, had been left behind at the camp. The doc said I had high fever, and he and Chappel led me to a room Tankersley had set up as infirmary and dispensary.

Coming out was a man vomiting blood, being helped by two of our people to accompany a Russian. Tankersley explained that his ulcers were hemorrhaging and that the Russians were taking him to their hospital.

I was led to the only vacant bed in the ten-bed room and realized it must have just been vacated by the ulcer case. This must be a place reserved for only the very sickest, I thought; but I didn't ponder the idea because at the time I didn't care about anything

and the bed was actually raised off the floor on legs and had a mattress and real blankets.

It had been nearly thirty-six hours, they told me, since I had been brought in. And I had taken almost all Tank's supply of sulfa pills. I couldn't remember any of it, and they said that mostly I had been just sleeping and trying to breathe. I remembered the ulcer case and asked about him, but nobody knew anything except that they had heard the Russians were keeping him stuffed with food, lots of it.

Hot broth, which had been brewed on the stove in the center of the room, was brought to me. I didn't want it and couldn't hold the spoon. Geoffrey Aitken, British male nurse he said, did the honors very efficiently. Between Dr. Tankersley and Private Aitken of His Majesty's Royal Something or other Hospital Corps, my double pneumonia was routed. The remainder of our time in Rembertow I spent in that bed, finally exhausting the supply of sulfa pills and having all my needs ministered by the solicitous Geof and the light-hearted Tankersley.

Every morning, the doctor held several "sick calls" in our infirmary for the pitiful collection of displaced person who occupied the upper two floors of the building. They were of several nationalities and came in groups segregated by their national origin. There was nothing he could do for any of them, Tankersley told us, but they kept coming back every day in larger numbers apparently for the honor of being examined by an American doctor. Some had missing a hand, foot, arm or leg. All were suffering from severe malnutrition, Tank said, and they all looked completely beaten down.

One morning, lined up in the aisle for his turn, was an emaciated youngster of about, I thought, sixteen or seventeen. But we learned he was only twelve. It was the expression in his eyes which made him look older, having seen, perhaps, much to age him and having borne the pains of twice his years. Tankersley for once forgot his light banter and was visibly moved, as we all were, just looking at the boy with his shirt off.

"We have only twenty vitamin pills left," Tank said in an unusually loud voice for him. "I can keep giving them out here for a couple or so days," and I should," he said, still talking as if to a large audience. We knew what he had in mind as a gesture to the boy, and I think everyone was surprised that he even asked, "What would you like to do?" So what good could a couple more vitamin pills do any of us, someone asked.

My memory turned up the face of the dead young soldier in the L-trench on the bluff, and the pangs of that scene joined to reinforce my sadness in looking at this boy.

It was the day after this that a warmly-dressed civilian came into the room, said in English that he was an American citizen, and insisted on a bed. Lt. Tankersley dismissed one of our people and gave the man his bed. The man spent the entire day sitting on the edge of that bed, not entering into any of our conversations. He slept in the bed that night, but next morning two Russian soldiers came in, pointed rifles at him, and took him away. Word came back later that he was some sort of German agent and that he had already been shot; Paul Marable"

WACO, TX: Paul, your memoir notes of August 8, 1984, came along with the note from Louis Tankin, above. It means so much to hear that sort of experience and we thank you.

However, for more up-to-date correspondence, your kind words about the ITEM and your "little drop in the postage bucket," all deeply appreciated. The copy you sent of your

Oflag 64 memoirs, "Two Hundred Fifty-Five Days," has been most enjoyable reading. It is no wonder your family and friends have walked off with all extra copies. We all hope to see you in Des Moines in September. We send our gratitude and best wishes.
PAUL MARABLE.

SAINT PETERSBURG, FL: Russ, Thank you for the brief note, thoughtful check for the P.F., and your recent two telephone calls. We are pleased to hear about your walking regimen and hope it will bring you back strong soon. Your good wishes for John Slack are added to all others as well. Best wishes.
 RUSSELL H. FORD

WILLOW STREET, PA: George, many thanks for your kind note. I did get to D.C., but was not able to get over to see you and Richard Sommers at the War College in Carlisle. Let's try again when the weather gets warmer. Like you, I am very pleased with the kind of treatment given me by the Military Institute staff over there, particularly Angela Fehl.

Glade you enjoyed the "Oral History" of Gen. Waters.
 GEORGE L. HERR

ANNANDALE, VA: Many thanks for your welcome check for the P.F. and for asking about Ethelene, my wife. She is doing fine after the removal of two cataracts in December and February. They went very well and what a nice Christmas present it all was. Please send me some news about you in the next letter.

For our readers, John came to us from Cassino in Italy and the 36th Inf. Div.
 Sincerely
 JOHN H. DAVIS

SAVANNAH, GA: Through Bill Warthen, we have received a letter from Bill Guest's sister, Nan Guest Bohn, in Citrus Heights, California. She wrote to tell us that her brother, Bill, is in the VA Nursing Home in Georgia due to recent surgeries, beginning with a hip replacement. Because she is so far away from him, she hopes that there will be someone near to contact him. She believes they would enjoy knowing him and that he would appreciate any news from our group. (Bill's ITEM is being sent to his VA address in Augusta, GA.)

For those who may recall, Bill was with the 1st Armored Division and captured near El Guettar, Tunisia, and was one of the first arrivals at Oflag 64. His present

address is:

William C. Guest
 Veterans Medical Center
 One Freedom Way
 Augusta, GA 30904-6285

Nan does not know how long he will be there.

WILLIAM C. GUEST

GRAND JUNCTION, CO: In our wanderings through your wonderful letters and the mailing lists, it has occurred to us that you might be wondering where we all hail from. There are only four states that do not have a Kriegie from our mailing list: Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota, and Utah. Following is an interesting breakdown by state of our present mailing list:

Alabama	11	Nebraska	6
Arizona	10	Nevada	3
Arkansas	7	New Hampshire	2
California	27	New Jersey	17
Colorado	10	New Mexico	1
Connecticut	4	New York	21
Dist. Columbia	2	No. Carolina	28
Florida	46	Ohio	21
Georgia	16	Oklahoma	8
Hawaii	3	Oregon	3
Idaho	1	Pennsylvania	21
Illinois	12	Rhode Island	2
Indiana	8	So. Carolina	9
Iowa	14	So. Dakota	1
Kansas	1	Tennessee	7
Kentucky	5	Texas	41
Louisiana	2	Vermont	3
Maine	2	Virginia	18
Maryland	10	Washington	8
Massachusetts	11	West Virginia	1
Michigan	11	Wisconsin	7
Minnesota	7	Wyoming	2
Mississippi	6	England	1
Missouri	4	Portugal	1
Montana	1	Sweden	1

While statistics are not always very interesting, we thought you'd like to be aware of just how widespread and representative of our entire country Oflag 64 is.

TOM AND SUE LAWSON

SAN JOSE, CA: Lloyd, what a nice letter just received, and many thanks for your P.F. check. You came to Oflag 64 almost a month after I did. I see that you were with the 28th Inf. Div., and what an outfit it was under Dutch Coda, as I recall it. In this issue of the ITEM is another interesting story of Lynn Hunsaker, who went the Luckenwald route.

Soon I will send you a list of those in the California Zip Codes of Oflag 64. Bet you'll find a couple or three you know, surely.

Again, many thanks and our best wishes.
LLOYD A. BROWN

Following is Lloyd Brown's recent letter:

"This long overdue letter is primarily to transport a check for the PM (PF) fund and to thank all of you who work on the OFLAG 64 ITEM. As I look at the artist sketch of the compound of the facility I think of the long cold and hungry days spent there. In spite of those memories unpleasant, though they may be, I can also remember the fellow Kreggies who had been there much longer than I and who never lost sight of the fact that we were still soldiers and Americans and never lost hope. I arrived at OFLAG 64 in Oct. 44 after landing on Omaha and fighting through the hedge row country before being captured while leading a motorized patrol. I'll never forget the long march out of there in January of 45, the cold, shortage of food, and all the miseries that accompanied that experience. I was in the group that was moved on to Luckenwald and remained there until the end of the war.

Briefly, for what it's worth I remained in the Army for a full career, retiring in September 1974 after 35 years and another war. I moved to San Jose, Ca and worked in the electronics industry for another 15 years. Since then I have spent two years on the County Grand Jury and now work (part time) with the Election Commission. My bride of fifty years and I raised two sons and have four grand children. I now spend a great deal of my time "Driving Miss Daisy" two of them ages eleven and fourteen.

I'm sure this must be boring as sin since you don't know me but it is just a quick overview of an ex-kreggie not unlike so

many others throughout the country but one who shares with you a respect and admiration of a common experience. I am proud of my service and even more proud of the fact that I rubbed shoulders with some of the greatest Americans that ever wore a uniform.

Thanks again for all you and the others that work on the paper do in putting together the very meaningful paper that can be enjoyed by all of us Ex POWs. If I can be of any service from here in the West, by all means let me know. There are probably some ex OFLAG 64 residents around here but I have not encountered any."

Warm Personal Regards
/s/ Lloyd A. Brown
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)

DARLINGTON, SC: Lynn, your fine letter and thoughtful check for the P.F. just arrived, and thank you so much. We feel your writing will be an inspiration to others who, like you, had the rare and really unneeded experience of visiting the less than palatial place called Luckenwald.

The stories of Louis Tanken and Paul Marable are very similar to yours. Please do what they have and type up the entire memoir and make some copies. It is an inexpensive process and will be remembered by all who get a copy to read.

With our best wishes and many thanks
LYNN M. HUNSAKER

Lynn Hunsaker's letter of March 7, 1996 follow
"Enclosed find my check for the postage fund. Sorry to be so late in sending it.

I read the item as soon as I get it and see names I remember and a lot I don't remember. Following are some notes about the walk out of Oflag 64.

The third night my feet were wet and about half frozen, I stayed behind. The Germans got everyone who was able to walk out on the road and marched away. I stayed in the barn that I had slept in.

I was put in a boxcar, I believe, Flatow, Poland. Seven days and seven nights later, we had gone 210 miles to Luckenwald. I believe I was in the first group of Americans from '64' to arrive there. Col. Oaks was the

senior officer. Luckenwald had all nationalities there, a lot of Russians. I remember the living Russians would carry the dead ones out for roll call, so that could get there rations. Later they would notify the Germans of how many had died during the night before. Some of the time, the Germans would have some American GI's and one American officer to bury the Russian dead.

I remember I had a boil on my left leg, on the calf, and Dr. Graffagnino lanced it with a razor blade. In March, I had a recurrence of Malaria Fever and I was put in the German hospital, which was run by French doctors, they had been there since the first of the war. The Germans gave them a pass and after working all day at the hospital, they would go through the gate into the town of Luckenwald and shack up for the night.

On April 22, 1945 the Russian army got to Luckenwald and flattened the wire fences with their tanks. The Russian POW's would grab a rifle and a German and head for the woods, coming back with the German's clothes.

On about April 30, or early May, Lt. Wade and myself, commanded a German motorcycle and headed for the Elb River. We got twelve miles out of camp and had a flat tire in a little German town full of Russian tankers. A Russian Major got a GI (Russian) to fix our tire while he and another Russian Major and Lt. Wade and myself went into a German house and started drinking. Toasting Stalin, Truman, and Churchill. This was about four o'clock in the afternoon the next thing I remember is waking up in a bed, Wade on one side of me and a Russian on the other.

Wade and I went back to Luckenwald for there was much fighting near the Elb. On May 8, an American 2nd Lt. showed up at the gate with twelve trucks to take as many as he could back to American lines. The Russian CO plus the American CO said no. As the Lieutenant was leaving, he shouted he would wait up the road about a mile until an hour after dark so that anyone who could escape to come up there and we would head for the Elb River.

A Lt. Weatherford and myself and a few others cut the fence and got into the woods and made it up to the trucks. A Russian soldier was standing out in front of the Lieutenant's jeep and wouldn't let us go. He stayed there for about one or two hours and then without any order or relief, he walked away so the convoy started. We crossed the Elb River about midnight and arrived in American control. I remember as we were about half-way across the bridge, I pulled out my last cigar that I had gotten at '64' and lit it up and went into American control smoking that one and last cigar.

We flew out of Hildershim, Germany to Nancy, France, had a bath, delousing, clean clothes and food. Then we took a train to LaHarve, France and later got on the Capital USS United States for the trip home.

I understand the Russians finally left the Americans at Luckenwald out on May 22, one month after they had liberated to camp.

There is a lot more, I didn't mean to write this much but memories just kept popping up in my mind.

If anyone from Luckenwald reads this and would like to write me, I would be glad to correspond (Post Office Box 554, Darlington, S.C. 29532)."

/s/ Lynn M. Hunsaker
Major AUS Retired
First Ranger Bn

ATLANTIC BEACH, NC: Ed, thank you very much for your kind letter and the check for the P.F. The story of your final accomplishment with your V.A. claim sounds almost unreal. In two senses: one that it was a real and genuine claim, and the second shows the intractable speed that government bureaucracies are most famous for. Congratulations for the breakthrough in your well deserved favor!

As soon as the Spanish mackerel begin to run, please get in touch with me. You will find an able-bodied seaman to help out on the menial chores while we do some serious fishing off the Outer Banks. I would surely like to join you. Meanwhile, my best to Elizabeth and you.
EDWARD G. BATTE

WILMETTE, IL: Jim, thank you so much for your note regarding the use of your drawing of Oflag 64 for the Water's story, and your kind remarks about John Slack.

So pleased for you to have had the delightful tour into the Caribbean waters in a month that was anything but nice in the Eastern United States.

Please, Emmy Lou and Jim, try real hard for the Des Moines event, it is not very far from your location. We want you both.
JIM BICKERS

LAWTON, OK: Martin, just a note of thanks for your notification of the loss of Harry Frazee. You mention that Harry, Irv Yarock, and you were in the same cubicle in 3A, and that you called Irv to tell him.

Also appreciate the goodies from the great State of Oklahoma and the Lawton environs. So good to hear from you always and I do thank you.

All the very best.
MARTIN KEISER

INVERNESS, FL: Dear Mrs. Frazee, I have just received a short note from Martin Keiser from Lawton, Oklahoma, telling us of the recent loss of your husband, Harry, and am truly sorry. He was in the same cubicle with Martin and Irv Yarock.

All of us in the Oflag 64 group join in deepest condolences to you and your four children who are surviving.

Again, our best wishes to you and your family in this time of deep distress and loss.

For any who might wish to write,

Mrs. Harry Frazee
8675 East Sweetwater Drive
Sweetwater Pointe
Inverness, FL 32650

Harry W. Frazee

Harry W. Frazee, 76, a former resident of Sarasota, died Feb. 29, 1996.

Born Nov. 29, 1919, in Akron, Ohio, he moved to Sarasota in 1960, Sanibel Island in 1985 and Inverness in 1990. He was a senior life insurance agent with Northwestern Mutual Life of Milwaukee for 36 years. An Army veteran of World War II, he had been a prisoner of war. He was an elder of Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church and a member of The Gideons International.

Survivors include his wife, Jacquie; two sons, Frank of Akron and Cory L. of Sarasota; two daughters, Pamela F. Fox of Medina, Ohio, and Lori Kane of Marietta, Ga.; a brother, Robert C. of Fort Myers; and three grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home in Inverness. The service will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church in Lecanto. Burial will be in Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Sat. 9-2-96

CHEYENNE, WY: Evelyn, thank you for sending the pictures of Bill presenting the POW-MIA flag to your college in Cheyenne during the month of January of this year, just before his death in February.

EVELYN KORBER



CHEYENNE, WY: Evelyn, this is one of the most difficult things that has come my way, saying goodbye to a dear friend and your husband, Bill Korber. We have seen each other often for the past five years and it has always been a joy. We are all so proud of the dedication of his life to his family, the community and his country and it showed in many ways. Please accept our love and prayers in these troubling days and all of us join in deep respect and thanks for his heavy contribution made to Oflag 64.

The article you so kindly mailed to me is enclosed in this ITEM along with your note. For those who knew Bill and Evelyn; (and enjoyed her beautiful piano music) and would like to send a card, her address is shown:

Mrs. Evelyn Korber
1526 Newton Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82001-1646

"Dear Herb and all of our POW friends,

The family and I would like you all to know that Bill passed away on February 3. Bill left us quite peacefully and very suddenly, due to the sudden rupture of the aorta. He was sitting in the chair watching the Univ. of Wyo. basketball game on TV. What a wonderful way for Bill! His 'going away' services were beautiful. The funeral mass was filled with music, and our three children and all the grandchildren were able to participate in the mass celebration.

For those of you who were aware of his arguments with the VA, his problems and disabilities were declared Service Connected last November.

He loved you all and the reunions were the highlights of the year for us.

Fondly, Evelyn"
EVELYN KORBER

FRANKLIN, NH: Stanley H. Robinson, Attorney at Law, notified us that Clifton Farnum died in January of 1994. No further information has been received at this writing, we are sorry to report.

NAZARETH, PA: Gladys, the sad news in your family over the loss of Williard just reached me via a letter from Don and Lucy Lussenden out in Livonia, Michigan. His was surely a life of dedicated service to his country, his church and his family. His 28th Infantry Division was famous for its many tough assignments and surely the Battle of the Bulge was a stern test.

Our prayers and condolences go out to you, Thomas and Susan. Their home address, in case our members would like to write, is:

Mrs. Williard Smith
209 Greenwood Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064

Gladys wrote the following about her husband, Williard:



William B. Korber
1919-1996

The Pueblo Chieftain

Funeral services were held Wednesday in Cheyenne, Wyo., for former Puebloan William B. Korber, 76, who died Saturday.

A native of Pueblo, Korber played football and basketball for Central High School where he graduated in 1937.

One of the first draftees in World War II, he was stationed with the cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he named his horse "Pueblo."

Following Pearl Harbor, Korber transferred to the Army Air Corps and flew P-51 fighter missions over Sicily from a base in North Africa.

Shot down while strafing a German military convoy, Korber was captured and spent 23 months in a prison camp in Poland.

After the war, he returned to his job as manager of the glass department at Florman Manufacturing Co. here, then worked in the accounting department at Colorado State Penitentiary.

After being recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict, Korber became a civilian employee at Fort Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne and retired there.

Among his survivors are his wife, the former Evelyn Ferrelli of Pueblo, now of Cheyenne; and a brother, John Korber, of Pueblo and two sisters, Pat Miller of Pueblo and Anne Magill of California.

Williard Smith, a former POW, died on October 29, 1995, at the age of 82. He was drafted into the service in June of 1941. He was at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, and then went to Officers Training School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and graduated as a Second Lieutenant in 1943. He was home in August of 1943 when our son, Tom, was born, but then was sent overseas and spent time in England and Wales.

In 1944, he was serving with the 28th Infantry Division in Headquarters Company, and was caught in the Battle of the Bulge and taken prisoner of the Germans. At that time he was then a First Lieutenant.

After leaving Oflag 64, he was in the long march through the winter months. After a time at Camp Lucky Strike in France, he was sent home in 1945, and was discharged that same year, and then he returned to civilian life.

Just thought I would send you this information. Keep up the good work of keeping these men from Oflag 64 together.

GLADYS P. SMITH

Willard Smith, 82, insurance executive

Willard Smith, 82, of 209 Greenwood Ave., Nazareth, died Sunday in Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Palmer Township. He was the husband of Gladys (Pysher) Smith. They were married 63 years last November.

He worked for the Nazareth Mutual Insurance Co. and its predecessors for 30 years before retiring as executive vice president in 1978. Before that he was an agent for the Prudential Insurance Co. in Perkasie.

Born in Pen Argyl, he was a son of the late Albert J. and Bertha (Kellow) Smith.

He was a deacon, elder, Sunday school teacher and member of the spiritual council of St. John's United Church of Christ, Nazareth.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving as a first lieutenant with the 28th Infantry Division in the European Theater. Wounded in the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner for five months in Germany, he received the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

He was a board member for First Colonial Group Inc., Nazareth, and the Nazareth National Bank and Trust Co., the latter for 26 years until retiring in 1989.

Smith was a former director of the Nazareth YMCA and a 32nd degree Mason in Whitfield Lodge 622.

Survivors: Wife; son Thomas of Altadena, Calif.; daughter, Susan of Chalfont, and two grandchildren.

Memorial services: 2 p.m. Wednesday in the church. No calling hours. Arrangements, Schmidt Mortuary, Nazareth.

SMITH - Willard, 82, of 209 Greenwood Ave., Nazareth, Oct. 29, 1995. In Palmer Township; husband of Gladys (Pysher) Smith. Memorial services 2 p.m. Wednesday, St. John's United Church of Christ, Prospect and Broad streets, Nazareth. Interment, Greenwood Cemetery, Nazareth. No calling hours. Contributions to the church, 18064, Schmidt Mortuary.

Sidney C. Miller Waupaca

Age 81, passed away Thursday, October 19, 1995 at his residence. Sid was born February 1, 1914 in Minong, Wisconsin, the son of the late Albin and Myrtle (Cole) Miller.

Sid married Lillian Roeser September 30, 1942 at Camp Wolters, Texas. He had served in the U. S. Army during World War II from June 30, 1942 to May 19, 1946 and had been a POW. Sid worked for the DNR from 1940 until his retirement in 1975. During that time he planted many of the pines at Hartman Creek State Park. Sid was also instrumental for getting the sewer around the Chain O'Lakes.

Survivors include his wife; two sons: John Mike (Vicki) Miller, Crestview, Florida; and Patrick S. Miller, Iola; four grandchildren: Donia (Glen) Roark, Shawna, Kristian and Molly; a great grandchild, Tyler; and a brother, Albin Miller Jr., San Antonio, Texas.

Two brothers and a sister preceded him in death.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, October 23, 1995 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Waupaca with Rev. James Vennix officiating. Burial will take place in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday evening from 4-8 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Home in Waupaca. A memorial has been established for Waupaca County Hospice.

WAUPACA, WI: Lillian, we are sorry to receive a letter reporting the sad loss on October 19, 1995, of Sidney, your husband. We thank you for including the obituary depicting Sidney's life. Your letter reached us from the Lussendens in Livonia, Michigan.

While Sidney was not a close friend of mine at Oflag 64, this will let his other friends know. He, like all the rest of us said the last thing he ever expected was to be captured.

Our love and prayers from all of us are extended to you and your family.

If anyone would like to write to Lillian, her address is:

Mrs. L. J. Miller
N 2240 Cleghorn Road
Waupaca, WI 54981

DEL RAY BEACH, FL: Mrs. Ross, the sad news of your husband, Alex Ross, came to us with a call from Russ Ford. He and Russ were close friends in Oflag 64, and played a vital part in The Little Theater group. They both were in advertising and continued a long warm friendship. Our prayers go to you and your family, sincerely.

Mrs. Alex Ross
5253 Bolero Circle
Del Ray Beach, FL 33484

CHARLOTTE, NC: Through Randolph (Boomer) Holder, we have received word from Walton Hardin, Attorney at Law, that Major Eugene L. Daniel, Jr. died in December 1995 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Chaplain Daniel is known to some for his fine book, "In the Presence of Mine Enemies." It is always on my desk. Boomer commented, also, on how interesting it is.

We thank you, Boomer, for sending this information on to us. We want to wish you and Clementi an enjoyable journey to Brazil, Argentina and Chile this April.

Mrs. Eugene L. Daniel, Jr.
5100 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28210-4720

PERIODIC BOOK SALES PROMO

"OFLAG 64 - THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY BOOK," this is about you and is the diary you were never able to keep. The pages between the olive drab cover contain more information than one person can remember. If you have never browsed through this masterpiece, you are in for a surprise. The quality of this book is superb. It was inspired by William Cory, edited by Frank Diggs, and laid out and produced by Jim Bickers.

But it is about what took place in your lives while guests of the unpredictable Germans. A place you lived minus your freedom. This was the only prison camp set up for American ground combat officers in World War II. But it was also home for a few enlisted men as well. From this book, you can learn about courage, hope, faith and charity. There was never enough food, but there were learning opportunities, spiritual affection and a disciplined way of life that carried through to this day - due to your leadership. This was no Andersonville.

From the reunion record published in this book, you can learn that we are about to celebrate the 25th gathering over in Des Moines, Iowa. We are getting good at this sort of thing.

If you haven't yet purchased your copy, please give it serious consideration. It can be ordered for \$50 from Bill Cory at 2843 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40206. It will arrive by UPS at your door, and you will not be disappointed.

The following list of books may be ordered from Carl Christensen, OFLAG 64 ITEM, 9 Pine Ridge Road, Whispering Pines, NC 28327:

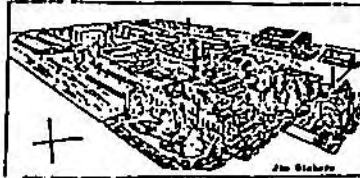
"THE WELCOME SWEDE" by Frank Diggs, \$15, hard bound. This fascinating account is from the personal diaries of Henry Söderberg kept during World War II as he traveled by any means available back and forth through Germany and Eastern Europe, making contact with all sorts of prison camps. A life-time friendship developed between him and Frank Diggs, who became a journalist after the war and senior editor of U.S. News & World Report. These two close friends collaborated on the development of an important story to be told and held in the memories of all who felt the impact of his invaluable visits to Oflag 64. This is a thoughtful and sensitive story that will grip the reader from cover-to-cover.

As a companion story to the one just described, you will want to read "OFLAG 64 AS I SAW IT" by Henry Soderberg, \$5, paperback. His job was to retain his trusted position with the Germans while visiting and administering to the needs of POWs all over Germany through the auspices of the YMCA. He was brave and dedicated to this opportunity to serve those who had lost their freedom and would have lost their sanity as well if it had not been for his ability to bring some diversion to so many monotonous and dreadful camps.

"A GRAND TOUR OF RUSSIA TO ODESSA WINTER 1945" by Herb Garris and Clarence Meltesen, \$5, paperback. This well written account describes a four-month's journey by the author after his escape from the marching column and ultimately rejoining his own unit the 101st Airborne Division in late March of the Rhine River.



GENERAL JOHN K. WATERS
10 July 1983



AN ORAL HISTORY

JOHN K. WATERS, GEN. USA, RET.

INTERVIEWED BY
WILLIAM C. PARNELL, COL, USA
1980

ARCHIVES
U. S. Army Military Institute
Carlisle Barracks, PA
17013-5006

AN ORAL HISTORY - JOHN K. WATERS, GEN. USA, RET., Interviewed by William C. Parnell, Col. USA, 1980, Archives, U. S. Army Military Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5006, pp., \$19.50

This is a brief review which will be helpful in understanding something of the contents of this book. It is the result of a taped interview with General Waters held in Carlisle Barracks by one of the researchers there, and then printed in the present format. Since it naturally might have more appeal to those who knew him more closely and served with him several years, it will also hold deep interest for those who made the atrocious march to Hammelburg. However, it so vividly portrays the true character, the sense of duty and utmost dedication which this career officer exemplified. It begins with detailed coverage of the disaster near Faid Pass and the truly botched-up mission to which he was assigned. Even so, he never made any excuses, and did the best he possibly could. His greatest credit throughout was to his mentor, Col. Thomas Drake, who played such a skillful role as the senior American Officer at Oflag 64. He served as his Executive Officer, and noticed always in him a fine sense of dignity, acute discipline and pride as an American officer. These characteristics reflected in General Waters and can be attested today by those who observed him and his achievements.

It is a genuine and thorough, though short, account of his observations made while a guest of the Third German Reich. He certainly, with no hesitation, was the most renowned and esteemed career officer who ever entered or left through Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland. This book is, therefore, dedicated to the model of leadership that General Waters demonstrated to us, and to the truly loving members of his family who are still with us.

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS

AGENTS FOR ESCAPE: Inside The French Resistance 1939-1945, Andre Rougeyron, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 70893, 189 pp., \$24.95, 1996

This is a story that was written in French in 1947, as the author recalled what he could of the French resistance, whom he knew and served with in his native Norman village of Domfront. It was dedicated to the many brave men and women who were closely involved in the resistance movements before and during World War II. It has always been an enigma to this reviewer as to how the movement against such a well organized German Occupation Force could possibly be as efficient as it was. Retaliation, even death to the forces and their families, upon detection was not a venture for the faint hearted. Keep in mind that these daring men and women were regularly in contact with the American, British and French support groups in England. Their logistic support was mainly with well-timed and secretly coordinated small air drops delivering all types of sabotage and communications signal equipment, so vital to their destructive missions.

The story begins in 1939 when this self-made mechanic and race driver was drafted into the French Army in its Ordnance Department. That gave him great latitude and mobility to visit the various steel mills in central and eastern France. It was to expedite the filling of the pressing orders of the military. It also gave him the opportunity to observe and see clearly ahead that France would soon be in deep and deadly trouble with the well-tuned German Wehrmacht already approaching the borders.

He then witnessed the virtual fold up of the French Army and Paris and soon made his entry into the resistance forces in a group located in his home town. People of many talents were sought out in recruiting and brought some considerable propensity for some of the resistance work. For example, printers were able to help prepare very authentic-appearing papers and identity cards with great success. They were in great demand by Frenchmen who were being sought for various reasons and needed to move quickly out of the range of the Gestapo.

By 1943 the air war from England was moving into high gear with bombing and search-and-kill missions flown nights and days. This also coincided with the drive by the Gestapo to seek some eleven 'unemployed' Frenchmen, including the author, for movement to Germany to enter the compulsory labor force in the Reich. On July 4th of the same year, he was assigned to hide into safety and to assist in the movement of an American B-17 bomber crew which had been shot down that day in the vicinity of Domfront. The key figure of the crew was Paul McConnell, a navigator, and who would subsequently become a dear friend for life of the author. It took painstaking care to make these much-sought-out-for crewmen to be converted into proper clothing, and to soon appear as average Frenchmen citizens equipped with newly forged identity cards and papers. Then he had to make preparations for their movement out of the area. The focal point of the short evasion route along the Atlantic Coast was conducted by the friendly fishermen and their families at some sizable risk. The other route was by train from Paris south to the Spanish border, which was achieved by McConnell by January 1944. It was a slow process and marked with intensive security all the way and through many people enroute. The danger was imminent to any of those assisting in the process with a normal reprisal by death of the resisters and their families, if discovered. The route mentioned above funnelled many air crew members, parachutists and O.S.S. agents outward to neutral Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The initial hideaway after bailing out was a large forest estate with the Chateau L'Ermitage in the center of it, and served well as a transfer point with little or no traffic nearby and few people in the area. It provided a godsend for the preparations needed to move the fliers out.

As time moved along toward the middle of 1944, the author, perhaps betrayed by one of his own countrymen at a price by the Gestapo, was arrested and sent to various camps in Germany and subsequently was located at Buchenwald, one of the most abominable concentration camps in Germany. The horrors of his maltreatment are indescribable and even aggravated by his strong will to never once reveal the names, organization and other needed facts about the resistance forces to the Gestapo. The poor medical care for his brutal beatings and the diet added to his weakening condition. Near the month of January 1945 as the approaching Allied Forces had crossed the Rhine and moved into the heart of Germany, the author planned and executed an escape into hands of the oncoming British troops. He eventually returned to his home and safety again.

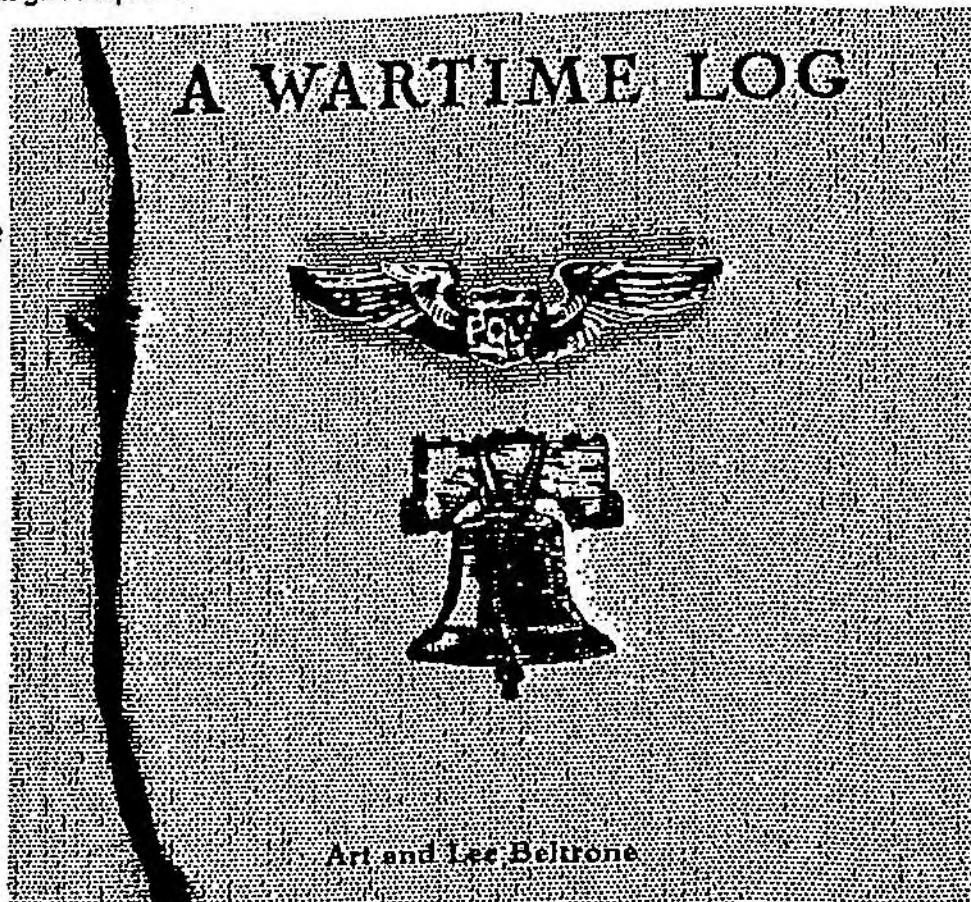
This narrative is a great tribute to the valiant efforts the author witnessed, not only among his resistance friends, but also the allied crew members who were shot down and came under his surrogate charge. The daring assignments of destruction of rails and bridges, and the skill in operating the underground escape system is unbelievable.

For many years Paul McConnell, a native of California and the first airman the author rescued, remained in close contact. He even attended a memorial service at which time a monument was erected and dedicated to these valiant men in 1994. Mrs. Marie-Antoinette McConnell, the wife of the officer, was the translator of the work from French.

It is a very interesting and informative story and well worth the reading. In the reviewer's best French, 'magnifique'!

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS
A WARTIME LOG: A Remembrance
from Home through the
American YMCA, Art Beltrone,
Howell Press Inc., 1147 River
Road, Suite 2, Charlottesville
VA 22901, 208 pp., \$34.95,
1995.

This reviewer met the author and saw the book for the first time in 1995 at the annual meeting of the Stalag Luft III reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio. Later he asked for my assistance on a New York Museum show in which he was involved with some of our Oflag 64 memorabilia. In appreciation of this favor he sent me a desk copy and the source of this review.



The story is one in narrative and photo coverage style. It is easy to read and very interesting since it involves, in the main, the U. S. Army Air Corps POWs who were shot down over European air space. They were sent to the Stalag Lufts and here a great similarity is evident, which a reader from Oflag 64 or other camps will easily recognize.

It centers on the YMCA Wartime Log which was created and distributed by the YMCA and Red Cross personnel at many of the POW camps. They were wisely used as a diary of events and thoughts while living a life behind the German barbed wire.

The five chapters run in sequence as bombers and fighters began their massive aerial onslaught in 1943 against Fortress Europa. It outlines the description of being captured and the following interrogation with finely toned skills by English speaking German intelligence personnel. They often had an accurate and clear order of battle of their prisoners' unit and key officers who led them, at their ready disposal. Then a short explanation of the Geneva Convention is shown with its history, its members and then some twenty of the germane articles relating to handling of POWs. A noted psychologist, Dr. Charles A. Stenger, stated that using the log was an 'escape' from the boredom of being placed outside the mainstream of the real world.

Camp life was portrayed much the same as in the 50th Anniversary Book of "OFLAG 64" an American Army Officer's Camp, and "Escape to Russia" by Randolph Holder, who was confined in this camp. The many useful ways to pass the time with some goals were explained by the successful leaders of the men with their limited resources available, and it soon paid off richly. The YMCA was instrumental in providing many arts, crafts, music and dramatics and even athletic supplies in due time.

The final and most painful phase to read concerns the roads to liberation from the many camps in eastern Germany and western Poland closer and nearer to the heartland as the fast moving Soviet troops began their drive to Berlin in January 1945. It is touching to read and to see the art work which some of the talented prisoners drew so well. The only real ray of hope was the liberation after all the long marches came to an end.

The research and skillful taste make it an attention-getting work. It has developed that the author is now beginning the spade work to prepare a companion piece which will feature the Wartime Logs of the soldiers and officers held in their respective Army Stalags and Oflags. It will be a collection from the participants, like this one, and should be of great interest.

If the readers have a question or request about the book, contact Howell Publishing Co:

(O) 1-800-868-4512
(FAX) 1-804-971-7204

If you want to deal with the author, Art Beltrone, to volunteer any experiences, events, or to send any memoirs, he can be reached at:

Keswick, VA (H) 1-804-296-1288
(FAX) 1-804-984-1861

He has spoken to Bill Cory and bought a copy of "OFLAG 64-The Fiftieth Anniversary Book," and I suspect will use it heavily as a guide. He seems really interested in any of us who were fortunate enough to have been given the Wartime Log from the YMCA. Art is to be congratulated on this fine work.



OFLAG 64 REUNION 1996



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**OFLAG 64
REUNION 1996
Agenda**

09-25-96
Wednesday

Registration - all day
5:00PM to 10:00PM Hospitality Room (open)
Happy Hour 5:00PM to 6:00PM

09-26-96
Thursday

8:00AM to 12:00 Noon Registration
1:00PM Load buses for trip to STARC Armory and
GOLD STAR Museum. Return at 5:00PM
5:00PM throughout evening is on your own.

09-27-96
Friday

9:00AM Load buses (\$15.00 for bus per person) for
Tour of Bridges of Madison County and John Wayne
Museum. Return to hotel.
5:00PM throughout evening is on your own.



09-28-96
Saturday

8:00AM to 9:45AM Continental breakfast - Atrium
10:00AM Business session
10:00AM Ladies program
5:30PM Group picture - Atrium
6:00PM to 7:00PM Cash bar
7:00PM Banquet - Des Moines room

09-29-96
Sunday

7:00AM to 9:00AM Brunch - Des Moines room
9:00AM Memorial Service
At end of Memorial Service dismissed till next year.

Have a safe journey home

