

PINEHURST, NC: Verris Hubbell and Bob Eckman, what more can be said than you gave us one of the best reunions many of us have ever attended, a true reuniting.

Your respective illnesses often during the preceding year mattered little with the final outstanding results. Our deep thanks to both of you, and the ladies, Arlene and Lillie. The one point we noticed when we arrived was the way in which you had in place and working your team of volunteers: Brig. Gen. and Mrs. A. T. Rolfe and Martin E. Wood. They were so very helpful in the registration, especially. Later for the presentation at Camp Dodge we were greeted with the same enthusiasm by Col. Dick Moss, Lt. Col. Robert King, and Thomas N. Bolton, director of the Iowa Gold Star Museum, (whose father was also in Oflag 64). They did everything possible to make our visit a welcome and interesting one. It was a well organized and enjoyable visit and we are so proud of the many nice things that took place in your hometown. We extend our grateful appreciation to you and thanks to all.

HERB GARRIS

GRAND JUNCTION, CO: Neither the downpours nor later on the glimpse of our last eclipse of this century got much attention during the excitement of greeting, shouting and hugging once again during our Des Moines Reunion. The extra activities were spaced

so that we had visiting and acquainting time with each other as well as learning about the rich countryside of central Iowa. At the new immaculate Star Armory we were introduced to the amazing fiber-optic connections throughout the state of Iowa. This oriented us to where we were during our subsequent drive along country roads to view the many bridges of Madison County, Francesca's farm home, John Wayne's birthplace, and the Howell tree farm with its beautiful dried florals.

That busy day ended with fine entertainment in the hospitality room provided by Mary Anderson and her Teeny-Bopper (with an attitude), Suzy Q. Charlie McCarthy would have done handsprings and still not kept up with her rapid-fire repartee. Some tough ole Kriegies, caught off guard, laughed til they cried.

During the men's business meeting, the ladies met with a well informed Iowa State Patrolman who presented many good words of advice on how to stay safe while traveling.

There were numerous gatherings at the foot of the great waterfall in the Holiday Inn's colorful atrium where we all collected late Saturday afternoon dressed up in our best, for the group picture which turned out real well.

Verris and Bob completed their teamwork by collaborating on the banquet ceremonies.

We were honored by the presence of Maj. Gen. Warren G. Lawson and his wife, Betty. His speech will be long remembered and will appear next in this ITEM.

Verris again served us well as Master of Ceremonies at the Sunday Memorial Service ably conducted by Chaplain (LTC) Tim Davison. Like General Lawson, Chaplain Davison displayed a thorough attention to the background of the audience. Both men were well-tuned to the feelings and deep memories of the men from Oflag 64. The compassionate message filled each heart and was reflected in the familiar voices of our group singing to the accompaniment of Helen Chappell at the piano, always a welcome addition to our gatherings.

This reunion touched our hearts in many different ways and will be recollected for the warmth and joy of sharing pent-up thoughts once more with those who understand and care.
TOM AND SUE LAWSON

Due to the attention and respect the audience showed General Lawson, it is felt that his thoughtful address should be shared with all our members who were unable to attend this fine reunion.

I AM OVERJOYED TO BE HERE. OFTEN WHEN I ADDRESS GROUPS LIKE THIS, I USE A STORY ABOUT TWO FRIENDLY ADVERSARIES TO UTILIZE (AND) TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF MY EMOTIONS. IT'S A STORY OF TWO FRIENDLY ADVERSARIES - SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AND GEORGE BERNARD SHAW. THE STORY GOES LIKE THIS: IT SEEMS THAT GEORGE HAD A NEW PLAY OPENING AT PICADILLY AND DECIDED TO INVITE SIR WINSTON. HE QUICKLY PENNED

HIM A NOTE: "DEAR WINSTON, I HAVE A NEW, PLAY OPENING IN PICADILLY TUESDAY NEXT. I AM FORWARDING TWO TICKETS. WOULD BE OVERJOYED TO HAVE YOU SEE IT." SIGNED: GEORGE BERNARD SHAW...P.S. BRING A FRIEND... IF YOU HAVE ONE!!!"

SIR WINSTON READ THE NOTE AND IMMEDIATELY WENT TO HIS DESK AND DEVIOSLY PENNED A REPLY: "DEAR GEORGE, IMPORTANT AFFAIRS OF STATE PRECLUDE MY ATTENDANCE AT YOUR OPENING TUESDAY NEXT IN PICADILLY. WOULD, HOWEVER, BE OVERJOYED TO HAVE TWO TICKETS TO THE 2ND PERFORMANCE..IF THERE IS ONE!!! SIGNED: SIR WINSTON."

AFTER I ACCEPTED BOB ECKMAN'S INVITATION TO SPEAK, I BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT TO SAY TO THIS GROUP OF SPECIAL AMERICANS... WHAT COULD I SAY THAT WOULD MAKE THIS A SPECIAL NIGHT...THE KIND OF NIGHT YOU DESERVE, GIVEN THAT THIS IS THE 53RD YEAR AFTER YOUR CAPTURE. IN FEBRUARY, 1943, I WAS A 10 YEAR OLD BOY IN FAIRFIELD. SO IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THIS SPEECH IS A TOUGH ONE FOR ME.

I WAS REMINDED THAT I HAD READ A U.S. NEWS MAGAZINE ABOUT 6 YEARS AGO AND IT REFLECTED THAT 69% OF AMERICANS CAN'T REMEMBER WORLD WAR II. IN FACT, 58%, IT SAID, DON'T REMEMBER KOREA AND 29% OF AMERICANS HAVE FORGOTTEN RVN...I SUSPECT IF WE SURVEYED TODAY I'D FIND THAT BY NOW ABOUT 80% OF THE POPULATION CAN'T REMEMBER WORLD WAR II... NOW 80% CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR SACRIFICE, BUT I CAN, SO MY REMARKS ARE THOSE OF A 10 YEAR OLD BOY IN FAIRFIELD DURING THE PERIOD 1940-1945. AS REFINED BY LISTENING TO THE WAR STORIES OF BOB/VERRIS, AND OTHERS, AND READING YOUR BOOK OFLAG 64.

I, LIKE YOU, REMEMBER WORLD WAR II...A STRUGGLE OF RIGHT AGAINST WRONG...GOOD

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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. Please make checks payable to Oflag 64 Item.

AGAINST EVIL...USA AND HER ALLIES
AGAINST HITLER, MUSSOLINI AND TOJO.

I REMEMBER THERE WAS A GREAT DEBATE...
SHOULD WE GET INVOLVED IN THE WAR IN
EUROPE. WITH ME I WAS ON THE FENCE...
BOTH THE GRANDFATHERS WERE FARMERS. ONE
FULL BLOODED GERMAN AND THE OTHER
MOSTLY IRISH...GRANDPA RABEL SAID WE
SHOULD NOT FIGHT WITH GERMANY...GRANDPA
LAWSON, HE BLAMED GERMANY. IT WAS THAT
WAY EVERYWHERE UNTIL THE 7TH OF DECEMBER
1941...THEN EVERYBODY'S MIND WAS
MADE UP.

INDEED, 7 DECEMBER 1941, STICKS OUT YET
TODAY IN MY MIND...WE WERE AT MY GRAND-
PARENTS (LAWSON) AND THE OLD CRANK PHONE
BEGAN TO RING...THAT WAS THE WAY YOU GOT
EVERYBODY ON THE LINE. IT RANG AND RANG
AND RANG...MY GRANDMOTHER PICKED IT UP
AND WAITED AND LISTENED AND THEN
REPORTED THAT THE JAPANESE HAD ATTACKED
PEARL HARBOR AND MAX BERKENS WAS ABOARD
THE USS ARIZONA THAT HAD BEEN SUNK.
MAX WAS A NEIGHBOR BOY WHO I KNEW FROM
THE THRESHING RUNS, SO FROM DAY ONE, I
WAS CONCERNED OF WORLD WAR II AND MAX
BERKENS, BUT ALSO MAD AT JAPAN.

OH, I REMEMBER THE AFTERMATH...EVERY-
ONE WAS INVOLVED! MY MOTHER ROLLED
BANDAGES AT DR. JAMES' OFFICE FOR RED
CROSS. EVERYONE HAD VICTORY GARDENS.
EVERYONE SCRIMPED AND SAVED...SAVED
MEAT DRIPPINGS TO MAKE SOAP...THERE
WERE SCRAP DRIVES OF EVERY SORT...
RUBBER, PAPER, TIN FOIL, METAL, ETC.
THERE WERE BOND DRIVES AND A CANTEEN
THAT MET ALL TRAINS. EVERYTHING WAS
RATIONED AND IT REALLY MATTERED
WHETHER YOU HAD AN "A" BOOK OR "B"
BOOK FOR GASOLINE. EVEN BEFORE PEARL
HARBOR, I REMEMBER THE SEND OFF OF
THE 34TH ID AND THE NATIONAL GUARD'S
CAVALRY. GOODBYE DEAN SEE YOU IN A
YEAR. I RECALL THAT THE BAND AND
MEDICAL COMPANY AND SERVICE COMPANY
OF THE 133D INFANTRY REGIMENT WERE
ALL HEADQUARTERED IN FAIRFIELD AND
I RECALL THEY TRAINED AT THE ARMORY
FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEN GOT ON
TRUCKS/BUSSES AND TRAINS AND WENT
TO LOUISIANA TO GET COMBAT READY.
THEY WERE TO BE GONE FOR A YEAR...I
THEN FOLLOWED THEM DAILY IN THE PAPER.
THEN ON THE 7TH OF DECEMBER 1941,

EVERYONE KNEW THEY WOULD NOT BE HOME FOR
A GREAT WHILE...WE WERE ENGAGED IN A GREAT
WORLD WAR...

ENTHUSIASM FOR THE WAR WAS INSTANT AND
PERVASIVE..."REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR"...THE
FUEHRER SAYS "THERE IS A STAR SPANGLED
BANNER FLYING SOMEWHERE" WERE SONGS EVERY-
ONE KNEW. MY UNCLES VOLUNTEERED...MY DAD
WAS 4F SO COULDN'T GO. WE EVEN HAD BLACKS
ENLIST, ALTHOUGH IN SOME RESPECTS THEY DID
NOT COMPLETELY SHARE IN FREEDOM AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL. WHAT WAS THIS WAR ALL ABOUT? IT
WAS ABOUT THE PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION...
"WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN
ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTAB-
LISH JUSTICE, INSURE THE DOMESTIC TRAN-
QUILLITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE,
PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE AND SECURE THE
BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR
POSTERITY...THIS WAR WAS FOR LIBERTY AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL, FOR FREEDOM YOU PARTICI-
PATED IN SAVING THIS GREAT NATION. MY,
WHAT A GREAT CAUSE, WHO WOULDN'T SUPPORT...
THIS WAS OUR NATION'S SURVIVAL.

IF I DON'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING ELSE TONIGHT,
LET ME MAKE YOU KNOW THAT IN MY MIND, ALL OF
YOU, ALL OF YOU WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND
ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT PAID THE SUPREME
SACRIFICE AND THOSE WHO FOUND THE FATE AS A
POW ARE HERO'S...YOU KNOW "HERO'S ARE NOT
STATUES FRAMED AGAINST THE SKY. THEY ARE
PEOPLE WHO SAY --- THIS IS MY COMMUNITY ---
THIS IS MY STATE --- THIS IS MY NATION AND
I RESPONDED WHEN THEY CALLED."

THAT WAS THE PREVALENT ATTITUDE FOR WORLD
WAR II AND ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT SURVIVED
OFLAG 64.

I REMEMBER WHEN THE TROOPS BEGAN TO DEPLOY
--- EDWARD R. MURROW AND H. B. KALTENBORN
TOLD US ABOUT IT. I REMEMBER THE INVASION
OF NORTH AFRICA...AS A SMALL BOY, I WAS
PROUD THAT OUR GUARD LANDED FIRST. I
REMEMBER THE PRIDE WHEN THINGS WENT WELL
AND OH HOW WE ACHED WHEN THEY DIDN'T...I
REMEMBER THE STARS IN THE WINDOW...HONOR
ROLL THAT DISPLAYED THOSE SERVING. CARL
RUNQUIST PUT UP CHANGES EVERY SATURDAY.
THE SHOPS CHANGED, DEXTER WENT FROM WASH-
ING MACHINES TO POWDER CANS AND ROSIE THE
RIVITER CAME ON THE SCENE...I REMEMBER THE
BATTLES, GUADALCANAL, NORMANDY, MIDWAY,
THE CORAL SEA, IWO JIMA, SIAPAN, BASTOGNE,
SICILY, MONTE CASSINO, AND YES I REMEMBER
THE FAID PASS AND THE KASSERINE WHERE FOR

MANY OF YOU THE WAR ENDED...AND THE PAIN BEGAN...AND MY HOW WE ACHED FOR THE LOSS AS THE PAPERS PLAYED IT OUT. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE THAT I RECALL CAPTURED FROM FAIRFIELD, BUT WE ACHED FOR ELSEWHERE.

AND I'VE STUDIED NOW TO GET A FEEL FOR YOUR PAIN...I CAN'T FATHOM THE EMOTIONAL TRAUMA OF BECOMING A PRISONER. GENERAL EISENHOWER IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "IN A FINAL CHOICE, A SOLDIER'S PACK IS NOT SO HEAVY OF A BURDEN AS A PRISONER'S CHAIN."

I KNOW THAT THAT HAS TO BE TRUE...IN FACT, I WAS EMOTIONALLY TRAUMATIZED BY GOING TO EAST BERLIN BEFORE THE WALL CAME DOWN. GOD KNOWS THAT THAT EXPERIENCE GAVE ME A LITTLE INKLING OF WHAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN LIKE TO BE CAPTURED. LET ME EXPLAIN.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I WENT TO EUROPE ON VACATION. MY BROTHERS AND I ARRANGED TO GO TO BERLIN AND THEN ON INTO EASTERN GERMANY. I ADD THIS POSTSCRIPT BECAUSE IT MAKES A POINT ABOUT THE GREATNESS OF OUR COUNTRY. I'VE SEEN ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF THE WORLD AND MY EXPERIENCE IN GOING THROUGH THE IRON CURTAIN IMPRESSED ME THE MOST. DESCRIBE GOING THROUGH THE WALL...LOOKING BACK OVER THIS 200 METER MAIZE I RECALL THINKING, "MY GOD, WHAT IF THEY ALL OF A SUDDEN SAID, 'WE GOT YOU' AND I COULDN'T RETURN...HOW HORRIBLE THAT WOULD BE TO LOSE THE MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY WE HAVE AND THE ONE WE APPRECIATE THE LEAST ...FREEDOM...LET ME TELL YOU WHEN I VISITED THE WALL, I CAME TO GAIN A TOTAL RESPECT FOR THOSE THAT HAVE LOST THEIR FREEDOM IN THE PAST AND ESPECIAL- LY SYMPATHETIC TO THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME PRISONERS IN SOME WAR OF THE PAST...YOU NUMBER IN THE 1,000'S JUST IN WORLD WAR II. OVER 194,879 THAT WERE POW/MIA IN WORLD WAR II OF WHICH ONLY 116,119 WERE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES CONTROL. AND OF THAT GROUP, 1,557 FROM OFLAG 64.

WHO WERE THESE FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR? THEY ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO LOOK THE WORLD IN THE EYE. THEY HAVE PAID THEIR ADMIS- SION...THEY FEEL AN EXTRA TUG AT THE HEART WHEN THE FLAG GOES BY...THEIR HEART GOES TO THE BEAT OF A MILITARY BAND...THEY COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES ...BIG...SMALL...SHORT...TALL. THEY ARE

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES, FLYERS, SEA- BEES, MEMBERS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE AND COAST GUARD. THEY COME FROM ALL BRANCHES ---ARTILLERY, ARMOR, INFANTRY, QUARTER MASTERS, CHEMICAL CORPS, AND MORE. THEY HAVE A QUIET DIGNITY FOR THEY KNOW THE VALUE OF FREEDOM, LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. THEY HAVE THE CLEAR EYES OF THOSE WHO RESPECT THEMSELVES FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. THEY ARE COURAGE LIVING ON MAIN STREET...PATRIOTISM MOWING THE LAWN ON SATURDAY P.M. ... AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP ALWAYS ON THEIR FACES. THEY ARE REPUBLI- CANS, DEMOCRATS, INDEPENDENTS. THEY ARE PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS AND UNCLAS ...SECRETARIES, PLUMBERS, DOCTORS, SALES PERSONNEL, MECHANICS, FARMERS, BANKERS, AND MORE. THEY ARE THE POLICEMAN ON THE STREET AND THE FIREMAN AT THE STATION AND THEY ARE SOLDIERS...THEY ARE RICH AND POOR AND ALL IN BETWEEN...THEY ARE OF EVERY DENOMINATION...AND EVERY RACE... THEY ARE WHITE, RED, BLACK, AND YELLOW AND EVERY RELIGION. THEY LOVE PEACE BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE PRICE OF WAR... THEY ARE ALL MEMBERS OF OUR NATION'S MOST EXCLUSIVE FRATERNITY...THEY'VE BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT..AND MOST OF ALL THEY LOVE FREEDOM BECAUSE THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED ITS LOSS...AND THEIR FAMILIES ALSO KNOW THAT FREEDOM IS NOT FREE BECAUSE THEY SUFFERED AN ETERNITY NOT KNOWING THEIR WELFARE AND FATE OF THEIR LOVED ONES...DID THEY EAT TODAY? ARE THEY WELL? WILL THEY COME HOME?

THAT IS WHO YOU ARE---TO ME---A ROOM FULL OF HEROES.

SINCE YOUR REPATRIATION BACK IN 1945... EACH OF YOU HAVE GONE HIS SEPARATE WAY IN THIS WORLD: BUT, AS YOUR REUNION PROVES YOUR SERVICE, YOUR MUTUAL SACRIFICE IN OFLAG 64 HAS BUILT A BOND THAT TIME AND DISTANCE HAS NOT BROKEN. IT IS A BOND THAT IS BASED UPON MUTUAL SACRIFICE AND A SHARED HAZARD PROVIDED BY THE CAPTORS AND THE ENVIRONMENT. MANY OF YOUR COM- PATRIOTS GAVE THEIR LAST MEASURE OF LIFE SO WE COULD BE FREE. YOUR SACRIFICE FOR OUR NATION MUST NEVER BE FORGOTTEN AS RECOGNITION OF YOUR SERVICE EXISTS AS THE WAY THAT WE WHO BATHE IN THE FREEDOM PROCURED BY YOUR SACRIFICE CAN HONOR YOU. INDEED, YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR LIFE IS REPRESENTED BY THOSE AROUND YOU.

COL. DRAKE REFLECTED YOUR FEELINGS IN THE OPENING EDITION OF "THE ITEM:" "IN BECOMING A PRISONER-OF-WAR WE HAVE BEEN SUDDENLY UPROOTED FROM OUR VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE AND CAST INTO THE STRANGEST, HARDEST, AND MOST PATHETIC ROLL THAT EVER CONFRONTS FREE MEN.

WHETHER WE SURRENDER TO THE ROLL OF A "HAS-BEEN, A DOWN-AND-OUTER" OR DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN CHARACTER THAT WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD ALL OF OUR LIVES DEPENDS UPON THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE ATTITUDE OF HIS COMRADES.

AS AMERICANS WE HAVE MORE TO BE THANKFUL FOR THAN ANY PEOPLES UPON THE EARTH. WE HAVE A NATION THAT GIVES TO EVERY MAN THE RIGHT TO LIVE DECENTLY AND TO PROSPER ACCORDING TO HIS DESSERTS. THIS HAS BEEN WON FOR US BY THE SACRIFICE OF AMERICAN MEN. IT WILL BE MAINTAINED BY OUR BROAD SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND THANKFULNESS FOR THE ABILITY TO 'CARRY-ON' AND TO BE OF GOOD TO OUR COUNTRYMEN.

WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT ALL DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLE, WHETHER BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS OR NATIONS, COMES FROM MISUNDERSTANDING. OUR DAILY LIVES SHOULD BE LIVED, IN OUR HEART AND IN OUR ACTIONS, ON THAT BROAD ENLIGHTENED POLICY TOWARD OUR FELLOW MEN OF MEETING ON THE LEVEL AND PARTING ON THE SQUARE.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING: IT USED TO BE YOU'D GET WHAT YOU'D PAID FOR. THE WAR HAS CHANGED THAT. NOW IT'S THE USUAL THING TO GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING. AND SOMETHING GOOD AT THAT. TAKE THE RED CROSS PARCEL FOR EXAMPLE. SOMETHING FOR NOTHING AND GOOD. OR "WEDNESDAY AT 7:15." SOMETHING OF NOTHING AND DEFINITELY GOOD. AND NOW TAKE THE ITEM. GO TAKE IT: THE CANTEEN'S ALREADY PAID FOR IT. ISN'T IT GOOD?

WELL, IF YOU REALLY LIKE IT DROP AROUND ANYTIME AND GIVE US A PAT ON THE BACK. IT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO. AFTER ALL, WE'RE WORKING FOR NOTHING.

AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, COME IN AND WORK FOR NOTHING YOURSELF."

THAT LAST ABOUT WORKING FOR NOTHING IS TRUE, BELIEVE US. WE EVEN HAVE TO PAY FOR THE BEER WE DRINK. ONCE IN A WHILE, THO, ELEGANTES ARE PASSED AROUND AND

THERE IS THAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

I READ YOUR BOOK - LOOKED AT YOUR TAPE - WAS BRIEFED BY BOB AND VERRIS ON THE NAMES OF SOME OF YOU ALMOST TO THE EXTENT THAT I KNOW YOU KRIEGIES. COL. DRAKE, COL. GOODE, COL. MILLETT, LTC WATERS, FATHER BRACH, DR. BURGESSON, JIM BICKERS, CAPTAIN BOLTON, AND HUNDRED OF OTHERS -- TO INCLUDE SODERBERG --- WELCOME SWEDE.

I'VE HEARD OF YOUR GUARDS, OBERST SCHNEIDER AND HAUPTMANN ZIMMERMAN, AND HOW YOU CONNED THE GUARDS ON HEAD COUNT, COMPROMISED THEM WITH CIGARETTES AND SOAP AND CONFUSED THEM ON YOUR TUNNEL EXPLOITS...LEARNED HOW COL. DRAKE MANIPULATED THEM...I'VE HEARD OF YOUR ESCAPE ATTEMPTS AND YOUR RADIO...I KNOW OF YOUR BANDS, YOUR GLEE CLUB, YOUR PLAYS, AND YOUR ATHLETICS...I READ OF YOUR PAY (60 MARKS PER MONTH) AND YOUR CANTEEN...I'VE HEARD OF YOUR GREEN BEER AND YOUR SHORT RATIONS, OF YOUR LACK OF LINENS AND WARM CLOTHES. I KNOW OF YOUR SHOPS, YOUR TAILORS, SHOE COBBLERS, ETC.

IN FACT, I FOUND OUT THAT THE AVERAGE KRIEGIE WAS 27 YEARS OLD---HIS HOME IS IN NEW YORK (108), PENNSYLVANIA (58), or Texas (74). HE IS HALF MARRIED AND HALF BACHELOR, (MOST MEN ARE LIKE THAT). HE ATTENDED COLLEGE BUT MORE LIKELY LEFT WITHOUT A DEGREE. HIS CIVILIAN OCCUPATION WAS STUDENT, SALESMAN, OR BUSINESSMAN. HIS FAVORITE PASTIME IS EATING.

THERE WAS, HOWEVER, MUCH DEVIATION FROM AVERAGE.

- * AGE RANGES FROM 27 DOWN TO 19 AND UP TO 52
- * THE MAJORITY BETWEEN 23 AND 28.
- * ALL 48 STATES WERE REPRESENTED.
- * THE KITCHEN PREPARED FOR THE KRIEGIE'S DAILY DIET:
 - 650 LITERS OF SOUP
 - 1056 POUNDS OF POTATOES
 - 1056 POUNDS OF CABBAGE
 - 1464 LITERS OF ERSATZ COFFEE

I'VE REVIEWED A TON OF YOUR PAPERS AND LAUGHED AT THE CARTOONS, NEARLY WEPT AT THE POETRY...AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR CAPTURE DID NOT END YOUR WAR...IN FACT, YOU WERE THE FORCE IN POLAND (1557 STRONG) DEEP IN THE ENEMY REAR THAT OUTWITTED, HARASSED, AND MORALLY DEFEATED THE 813TH INFANTRY (GRENADIER) REGIMENT. FROM JUNE 1943 UNTIL YOUR EVACUATION ON JANUARY 21, 1945. IN FACT, YOU ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY

PRISON CAMP IN HISTORY THAT CELEBRATED YOUR VICTORIES WITH A FULL SCALE 4TH OF JULY FORMAL PARADE TO INCLUDE PLAYING OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM.

CHAPLAIN DANIELS IN HIS BOOK -- IN PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES WROTE: "I WOULD NOT GO THROUGH AN EXPERIENCE LIKE BEING A POW AGAIN FOR ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY, BUT HAVING SURVIVED IT, I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE WITHOUT THIS EXPERIENCE. I THINK I AM A BETTER MAN, A BETTER CHRISTIAN, AND I INTEND TO BE A BETTER HUSBAND AND FATHER WHEN I GET HOME AGAIN."

AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, YOU ARE SPECIAL PEOPLE. YOUR NATION CALLED, YOU RESPONDED --- YOU ARE A MINORITY IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY THAT HAS SWORN THE OATH--- "I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

YOU SWORE THE OATH --- SERVED THE NATION --- SURVIVED THE PRISON CAMP AND FOR THAT YOU OUGHT TO BE EXTREMELY PROUD...NO MATTER HOW GRAY THE HAIR OR HOW MANY INCHES YOU'VE PUT ON THE WAIST, I HOPE THAT YOU ALWAYS HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH AND WALK WITH A DISTINCTIVE GATE THAT SHOWS YOUR PRIDE... YOU HAVE PAID YOUR PRICE FOR OUR FREEDOM AND I TONIGHT SALUTE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

There was a standing ovation and the room spilled over with respect and appreciation for General Lawson, and a renewed respect for each other for all the horrendous trials and tests each of us had survived. This was a fitting conclusion for a warm and wonderful reunion.



MAJ. GEN. WARREN G. LAWSON

PINEHURST, NC: This will be an effort to summarize the business meeting held on Saturday, 28 September, for those who were not present. A personnel change was submitted to the floor. First, and a severe loss, were the relief of Tom and Sue Lawson from their distinguished duty as Guest Editors. To keep things rolling with the ITEM, Don Lussenden graciously volunteered to pitch in on the Guest Editor's spot. You will recall what an outstanding job he and his wife, Lucy, did in 1995. We are so grateful for their offer.

Second, was the request for relief of Bob Levin who has done a yeoman service in the fiscal support of the Postage Funds for over two years. Then the relief of myself as the head of the organization which was held in abeyance. I could not but yield to voices and their sincere concern for me to continue for the rest of the year to Newport, RI, possibly our last reunion. However, if you read the full content of Bob Levin's touching note you discover that there are many good reasons why we should plan to dissolve at that time. Mainly, we are growing older, less able in some cases to make the reunions, and financially stressed to meet the current air fare and hotel costs of attendance. A copy of Bob Levin's letter, dated September 11, 1996, follows:

"To: Members of Post Oflag 64

I would like to thank the membership for the way they responded to our plea for money to the OFLAG 64 POSTAGE FUND. Without the cooperation we received and the hard work put in by Herb Garris, Tom and Sue Lawson we would not have received the Oflag 64 ITEM.

At this time I am asking to be relieved of being treasurer of the organization. After handling the books for two years I hope that someone else would take the job on.

I would like to give my thoughts about what this organization should consider at this time. It has been over 50 years since we were POWs and I do not know how many more meetings we will be able to attend. Since the next meeting is to be held in Newport, RI, why don't we make this the last one and really make it a great one.

The committee could start working on getting the word out and try to contact every EX-POW and get them to make plans to attend. Then we could fold up our tent and just live with our memories of the friendships we had made at that difficult time. We could put out maybe two or three more ITEMS and any monies we had left over could be donated to a worthwhile charity. If this were adopted I would be willing to serve til the next meeting in Newport, RI.

Thanks again for your donations to the Postal Fund.

/s/ Robert Levin"

So, you will find enclosed the story of another sister organization to which John Slack and I, as well as the late Bill Korber have over the years held a very close attachment with regular correspondence. They have faced the same set of reasons and have taken a similar step for May 1997. Their methodical and orderly transfer of the sizable funds is shown in some detail. While ours is in the preliminary stage with the months remaining, it can be worked out equitably and satisfactorily. Meanwhile, it is hoped that the dissolution will be taken in a good and proper spirit. It appears to be a necessity, an urgent decision we should address, and move on with dispatch in a business like way. A copy of the KRIEGIE KLARION, Stalag Luft III newsletter article will follow to explain their situation.

During the meeting it was pointed out that on the bookkeeping Bob and I maintain two separate check books, which are reconciled each month as we meet to do that and pay the bills of production and administration of the funds. His diligence and dedication is highly commendable and I appreciate how he has taken part of the load from me.

In addition, Bob's appealing and well worded letter to our members a year ago in Atlanta at that reunion led to a very successful fund drive to put our balance into a respectable condition now. Likewise, his sound recommendations regarding a proposed final appeal for 1997 in Newport have been carefully heard and well received. We thank Bob for his overall work contribution made to us and wish him and Carlene the very best.

Bill Warthen and Boomer Holder gave us some highlights of progress being made at the Andersonville site POW Museum, with an invitation to come and see it in their favorite state, naturally.

A recognition was made of the first-timers among us Ray Holmquist and Roger Euler, as well as a guest I brought, John Sword. He is a writer and member of the 79th Inf. Div., an Iowan and a special friend of mine.

During our meeting, Chris Heisler gave his short plan for the program and the available facilities in Newport. He had just been through a real knockout with his 507th Parachute Infantry Regimental Reunion (Col. Millett's group) a bit prior to ours in Des Moines. He reported that it went so well and based on this experience he has submitted a very attractive program for us to consider. This is a very historic and interesting area and will be a well-chosen venue for us. A point made by me is for you to consider sending in your registration check for \$110.00 early for our Newport reunion in 1997 to Chris so he can have some seed money available. The expenses do pile up as Hub and Bob can so well attest. To lead the way he took a check from me for that amount with no reluctance at all.

Upon my return home, I received a phone call from Roy Chappell with a small sermonette to let us hear a FLASH REPORT from the head shed and is hereby being complied with heartily, as it was forwarded to me.

FLASH MAXIMUM NOTICE IS BEING RUSHED TO YOU SO YOU CAN REARRANGE WHATEVER IS REQUIRED TO ENABLE YOU TO MAKE CERTAIN TO ATTEND WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE SWAN SONG FOR OFLAG 64 REUNIONS.

**TIME: TUESDAY SEPT. 2 THROUGH 4, 1997
PLACE: NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
CONDUCTOR: CHRIS AND GLORIA HEISLER**

DETAILS ON SUPER PLANS FOLLOW, BUT START PLANNING NOW.

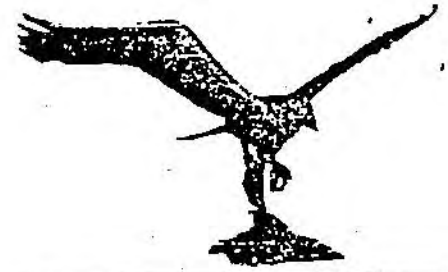
Walter (Chris) Heisler
100 Prospect Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

We thank Roy for taking the time to alert all of us as they are experiencing very serious family health matters just now.

A Newsletter

KRIEGIE KLARION

Stalag Luft III Former Prisoners Of War



Fall, 1996

REUNIONS

(details on Page 3)

South Camp, Stalag Luft III: April 25-27, 1997. Colorado Springs, Marriott Hotel. Contact Lt. Gen. A.P. Clark, 12105 Ambassador Dr #105, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Phone: home (719) 481 5101. (office) (719) 598 7614.

Center and West Camps, Stalag Luft III: June 4-8, 1997. Louisville, KY, the Galt House. Contact Tom Thomas, 1607 E. Willow, Wheaton, IL 60187. Phone (630) 668 0215 or Bob Weinberg, 2229 Rock Creek Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028. Phone (210) 257 4643.

History of Stalag Luft III Preserved at AF Academy

The complete history of Stalag Luft III in manuscripts, photos, and documentation is preserved for present and future cadets, scholars, and historians in the Special Collections Branch of the library of the United States Air Force Academy.

The Manuscript Section of the Branch contains a significant body of personal papers donated to the Academy by Air Force officers and civilians who were instrumental in the development and implementation of air power.

More than 1000 individual collections containing correspondence, official reports, diaries, photographs, artwork and printed matter are housed within the Branch. These collections provide graphic insights that span man's early attempts to master flight to the evolution of contemporary air power and doctrine.

Significant collections include the records of the members of the Lafayette Escadrille (Americans who volunteered to fly with the French prior to the United States entrance into World War I), the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, the USAF Escape and Evasion Society and the records of the Eagle Squadrons of World War II.

Centerpiece of the Section is the collection of the Stalag Luft III Former Prisoners of War. The collection includes hundreds of photographs, many of which were taken in the camp during the war with clandestine cameras.

Among the many research documents are the memoirs of Colonel Friedrich-Wilhelm Von Lindener and Major Gustav Simoleit and the oral history of Herman Glemnitz.

Stalag Luft 3 association to be dissolved

The formal association of the Former Prisoners of War of Stalag Luft III will be dissolved at the end of its current fiscal year, May 31, 1997.

Collection of dues will cease immediately and a final edition of the Klarion will be published next spring.

The unanimous decision to cease operations was made by the Board of Directors at a meeting at the Air Force Academy on August 10, 1996. All officers and members of the Board were present and voting.

The Board also determined that assets remaining at the close of operations of the association, including funds and copyrights, will be contributed to The Friends of the United States Air Force Academy Libraries. It is estimated that general funds of the association will total about \$12,000 after payment of current obligations, publication of the Klarion, and costs involved in closing down. These funds will constitute an unrestricted gift to the Friends.

The Board voted that transfer of the Historical Preservation fund to Friends of the Academy Libraries be made effective August 31, 1996. The fund totals approximately \$11,000, and will continue to be dedicated to maintenance and enhancement of the Stalag Luft III collection at the Academy library.

Copyrights owned by the association are for *Through the Eye of the Needle* and *The Longest Mission*. The former is a collection of there-I-was stories published in 1992 and now completely sold out. *The Longest Mission* is a "coffee table" book telling the Stalag Luft III story in text and photos. It was published for the 50th anniversary reunion.

The Friends of the Academy Library is a non-government association dedicated to assisting the library in pursuit of its goals. It is currently headquartered at the library and a number of former superintendents of the Academy serve on its Board.

The Former Prisoners of War of Stalag Luft III became a formal organization following the Chicago Reunion of 1983 primarily to plan and operate future reunions. Under its aegis reunions were held in Denver in 1985, Seattle in 1987, Norfolk in 1990, St. Louis in 1992, and Cincinnati in 1995.

The first reunion of the Stalag Luft III veterans was held in Dayton in 1947. Subsequent reunions at approximately 5-year intervals were held in Dayton and Cincinnati under the direction of David Pollak.

Bombs Around the Clock

by Fred A. Morley

Some of the POWs, who were held in Stalag Luft III at Sagan and who were force-marched in January 1945, were separated from the large group heading direct to Stalag VIIA at Moosburg. They were sent to Nuremberg. We arrived in 40 X 8 box cars at Nuremberg-Nord on February 4, 1945, and walked to the nearby POW camp known as Stammlager XIIID.

This camp was built in the mid-1930s and was initially used by the Hitler Jüger as housing when they participated in the huge Nazi rallies held in Nuremberg. Subsequently the buildings were used to house Italian and other POWs.

We were under almost constant alert as the air raid sirens sounded whenever Allied aircraft entered Germany that could be heading for Nuremberg. Everybody's nerves were on edge, not just the Germans, but also the POWs. The Germans let us build slit trenches, but without shovels. Kilm cans and bed boards became the tools. At first the Germans refused to unlock the barracks at night even though the air raid sirens were sounding. Eventually Colonel Aldre pressured them to change that policy.

As dark approached on the night of the 19th of February, we heard and then saw high flying aircraft. The aircraft began dropping flares in a line which separated the POW camp from the marshaling yards that were between the POW camp and the city of Nuremberg. Soon thereafter searchlights filled the sky as the German anti-aircraft units looked for the coming RAF bombers. We could hear the roar of hundreds of aircraft flying high overhead followed shortly by the explosions of thousands of bombs dropping into the city, which could be seen and heard. The bombing continued much of the night as the POWs cheered, but struggled to find cover from many red hot pieces of flak falling from the skies. Many used blankets over their heads as their only cover.

We saw more than one RAF bomber hit by flak and explode. Soon we saw parachutes as the airmen fought for their lives. Before long we had some new POWs in our camp.

As the sky brightened we again heard aircraft and when we looked to the sky we saw B-26 and B-25 aircraft with many P-47 "little friends" heading for the city to drop their bombs and strafe targets. Later, that same day, the sky became filled with hundreds of B-17 and B-24 aircraft that crushed the city with even more devastation. That night the British were back: again the city of Nuremberg shook from the falling bombs. As the sun rose in the smoke-filled sky the Americans returned to continue the destruction of Nuremberg. One more night of RAF bombings and Nuremberg was softened for the coming troops of General Patton's 3rd Army.

After the bombings, a German guard told us thousands of Germans had died down in the air raid shelters. They didn't have a mark on them. Their deaths were caused by the concussion of the many exploding bombs. The city of Nuremberg burned for days after this massive three-day raid.

Bulletin Board

Evadees/Escapees: The Joint Services SERE Library is seeking to contact former internees, POWs or veterans with wartime evasion experience. We are a POW research library supporting the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape training community, and want to include your memoirs and memorabilia in the National Archives. Write: HQ JSSA/TN, 9018 Black Road, Suite 101, Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060. E-mail: jssatn@ix.netcom.com; tel (703) 806-6417; fax: (703) 806-5262.

Canadian historian and collector will purchase or trade for:

1-Lapel pin—Clipped wing with swastika ball & chain attached. (1990 Reunion souvenir)
2-Lager marks—paper money issued as "payment" to POWs by Germans

3- German dogtag issued to POWs

4-Any US dogtag from a POW at Luft 3.

Contact Steve Martin, 174 Barker Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4C 2P2, Canada

The Air Force Navigators Observers Association, an organization of all former navigators of the USAF, USAAF, and USAAC, is prospecting for members. Contact: Edward Chan, 1065 N.5th St., New Hyde Park, NY 11040. Tel.(516) 775-0251

History of Stalag Luft III Preserved at AF Academy

from Page 1

The Branch houses the papers of Lt. Gen. A.P. Clark and the assembled works of Henry Söderberg, the Swedish volunteer with the International Y.M.C.A.. Also included are the papers of Major General Delmar Spivey and hundreds of small collections of documents, photographs, logs, and artwork which have been donated to the Academy by ex-Kriegies. The Branch also houses the research collection gathered by Arthur Durand in support of the publication of his book, *Stalag Luft III: The Secret Story*.

The collection is extremely important to cadets enrolled in history, foreign language and English courses at the Academy. Coordinating with the academic departments, staff of the Special Collections Branch provides instruction to cadets regarding research methods in primary source materials. For their own research projects, cadets can write from original source materials and need not depend upon interpretations found within published histories.

Due to the lack of a museum at the Academy, the Stalag Luft III collection is not on public display. The Academy Archivist, Duane Reed, enjoys the opportunity to brief the contents of the collection and ex-Kriegies are encouraged to visit the Academy Library to research the documentary collection. The Special Collections Branch is open to the public from 7:30 am to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reed may be contacted at area code 719-333-4674.

It is such problems that cause us to remember how very important our gatherings are and not to let the last one slip through our lives unnoticed.

Forgive me for not writing and thanking each of you personally for the very generous gifts to the Postage Fund while at Des Moines and here at home following my return, but the list below is indicative of how grateful you seem to be with the Oflag 64 ITEM and the staff leadership which makes it possible. We all thank you for the response very much.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Sid Thal | O. L. Bradford |
| Herm Littman | Rod Peebles |
| Irv Yarock | Jim Sherman |
| Les Edsall | Joe Barrett |
| George Rosenthal | Bob Aschim |
| Verris Hubbell | Bill Wade |
| Evelyn Korber | Roger Euler |
| Royal Lee | Matt Smith |
| Don Lussenden | Tom Miller |
| Errol Johnson | Jay Drake |
| Jerry Hatch | Russ Ford |
| Joe Ainsworth | |

HERB GARRIS

WOOSTER, OH: Joe, many thanks for the kind words and the audit of our P.F. It was an achievement of unbelievable proportions the way in which it came out. You also deserve a vote of thanks and do it well and thus keep us in good standing. Thank you for that so much. The giving members are the real part of the support group which make us as well off as we are. To them a note of appreciation as well. We missed you in Des Moines, but hope those knees of yours are carrying you around safely by now. To Jeanne and you my best wishes.

JOSEPH SERINGER

(See Page 11 for Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for May 17 thru June 4, 1996)

ARLINGTON, VA: Frank, thank you so much for your considerate contribution to the P.F. Your added information concerning the Army War College at Carlisle, PA, is so worthwhile for all our members that we want to pass it on as you've described it to us. "Here's a suggestion for you aging Kriegies, if you have built up a library, as I have, of Kriegie-related books, reports, and

artifacts, consider donating them to the US Army Military History Institute, which is part of the Army War College at Carlisle, PA. This is the army's central repository for historical materials, including everything concerning army prisoners of war in WW II. It is widely used now by researchers and probably will be more so as time goes on.

I visited the place recently to see just what they have and how much it is used. It was indeed impressive--more than 8 million books, military reports, manuscripts and photos, carefully filed in a huge, 4-story building, with dozens of civilian researchers busy utilizing the stuff.

Personally, I donated the two bound volumes of Oflag 64 Daily Bulletins that we smuggled out through Odessa 50 years ago, plus half a dozen books including Boomer's ESCAPE TO RUSSIA, Clarence Meltesen's ROADS TO LIBERATION FROM OFLAG 64, my WELCOME SWEDE and of course the Anniversary Book. The Institute was grateful and asks for any more books, autobiographies or Kriegie artifacts that you ex-Oflagites may have.

If you decide to donate your Kriegie memorabilia to the History Institute, I suggest that you write first to Nancy L. Gilbert, the Assistant Director for Library Services, with a list of what you have in mind. She will then check off what they would like to have and send you a self-addressed, postage-paid label for your use in mailing the whole package. The address: U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA 17013."

FRANK DIGGS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Clarence, per your appeal in a letter to me in July, we are listing the important questions which you so badly need for assistance on your book, MEN OF OFLAG 64. Our request is to the named personnel to please get in touch with you at the earliest convenience so that you can move along speedily toward publication:

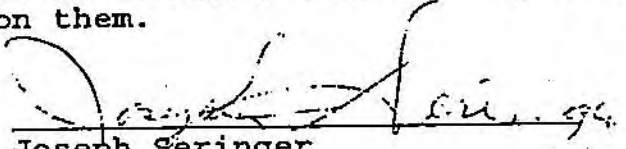
1st Lt. Frank Purcell, arrived 11 Nov 44, and 1st Lt. John Sherrill, arrived 2 Nov 44 marched to Parchim, Hammelburg, Nurnberg, Moosburg. They were in the same "fire group" at least part of the time. Need more details. On the black, armored, captain at Hammelburg, Bill Warthen has a trail into Miami, and

OFLAG 64 SECRETARY'S FUND

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
May 17, 1995 thru June 4, 1996

Balance in Fund at Date of Prior Examination, May 16, 1995		\$ 806.13
Receipts for the period:		
Contributions to fund	\$ 9,148.00	
Refunds from Atlanta meeting	1,820.00	
Sale of "Waters" book	<u>411.37</u>	<u>11,379.37</u>
Total		12,185.50
Disbursements from the period:		
Newsletter cost - net	\$ 2,607.67	
Supplies including cost of "Waters" book	851.83	
Postage	565.49	
Telephone	<u>137.68</u>	<u>4,162.67</u>
Fund Balance at End of Period June 14, 1996		8,022.83 =====
Balance per bank May 19, 1996		\$ 7,905.61
Receipts (included above) thru June 4, 1996		<u>474.50</u> 8,380.11
Less disbursement included in above statement June 4, 1996		<u>357.28</u>
Balance of Fund June 4, 1996		\$ 8,022.83 =====

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


Joseph Sringer

could stand some help in checking out leads. We have no names on the scarlet fever cases or the Kriegies that were quarantined. Roy Chappell has a piece of this story.

We had four Nisei officers on our rolls:
Hisae (Joe) Shimatsu
Sam Sakamoto
Takeuchi Myashiro
Jimmie Kanaya

Three were infantry officers out of the 100th Battalion. Jimmie was a Med Svc officer out of the 442 RCT. Takeuchi arrived on 15 Jan 45 from German hospitals and is not on the existing camp roster. The infantry went to Odessa. Jimmie marched as far as Nurnberg. The item on page 425 needs to be reviewed.

I am holding memoirs by John Sherrill, O.L. Bradford, Donald Ohl, Donald Stewart, Bob Corbin, Jay Drake, William Harrell. Maybe others when I clean up my files.

William R. Harrell is a sole source for the layout and medical services at Wollstein in January 1945. Dr. Godfrey was too rushed to have details.

As you've stated, Clarence, it helps to have an eyewitness report of just about anything that happened to us on our marches. Best wishes for your continued success.

If any of you can supply Clarence with this information, or have any recall, please write to:

LTC Clarence Meltesen
810 Gonzalez Drive Apt 4-D
San Francisco, CA 94132-2221

CLARENCE MELTESEN

HARDWICK, MA: Philip, we thank you so much for your contribution to the P.F. and very interesting letter mentioning your stay at the lazaret at Wolsztyn. Especially your recall of Maj. William N. Engels, who has since died, and Capt. James T. Godfrey, M.C. You stated that Dr. Godfrey has moved to the Carolinas and is going blind as you learned from him about four years ago. Perhaps this will be helpful to Clarence Meltesen in his research.

If you're ever back through Grand Junction country again be sure to let Tom and Sue know. There's more to visit there than the VA Hospital, good as it is.

Congratulations on your work with the EX-POW group having served both as Commander and Chaplain for so many years. Best wishes to you and Laura.
PHILIP McINTYRE

FAR HILLS, NJ: Joe, it is good to hear from you and that you and Emily are getting around as best you can these days. Since you were unable to attend the Des Moines reunion, perhaps this ITEM will bring it to you. Thank you so much for your contribution to the P.F., it's greatly appreciated.

A copy of your PASSAGES TO FREEDOM just made its way to Mexico last month! Lawson's son took it along on his vacation and liked your story so much he lost track of where he was. That was partly due to the fact that he was surrounded by many German-speaking tourists.

Our best wishes for you and Emily and here is hoping you can plan for RI in '97.
JOSEPH S. FRELINGHUYSEN

MT. PLEASANT, SC: Pat we are sorry to learn of the health problems with Martha's mother this past summer. Others in our group will share our interest in her condition as well. It is a difficult time for you all. Please stay in touch as we're concerned and want to send our best wishes to you and Martha.
G. PAT WATERS

ATLANTIC BEACH, NC: Ed, thank you so much for the addition to the P.F. It was also nice to receive the articles on Dr. Leo K. Bustad receiving the WALTHAM Award in San Antonio this past March. For our members' information, Dr. Bustad is a national and world leader in using pet-assisted therapy to help the elderly and disabled. This award was for his outstanding public service activities that have improved the well-being of domesticated animals. Another fine example of one of our members to be so proud of.

Now that we are into November, the hurricanes should leave you alone. Glad to hear you didn't have too much damage. Our best to you and Elizabeth.
EDWARD G. BATTE

FALLS CHURCH, VA: Al, we were sorry you had to miss the Des Moines reunion, especially because of your serious accident, followed by the heart attack. But with all this, it sounds like your worse problem is with the Cabin Fever! sure hope those crutches are no longer necessary and you are able to get out more now. We have a grand affair coming up next September over in Rhode Island and we'll have our fingers crossed for your recovery by then.

Our best wishes go out to you and Louana.
H. ALEXANDER CASNER

ARLINGTON, TX: Vic, your interesting letter explaining about your capture and temporary freedom over in Italy did remind us of Joseph Frelinghuysen's PASSAGES TO FREEDOM. To clue in our readers as to why you didn't live in the White House at Oflag 64, your story is reproduced here.

"I was captured by the Germans in Tunisia on December 6, 1942. The Germans turned us over to the Italians who took us to the British Officers' camp at Chieti. When Italy capitulated in September 1943, the Germans took over our camp at Chieti and within a few weeks had us in box cars headed for Germany. I and about 25 other POWs were lucky to be in a box car in which we were able to remove the bars from one of the windows. I escaped through the window along with at least 20 others. A few days later I met up with Len Warren who had also escaped (I'm not sure how). Len and I were free in Italy, but behind the German lines. The allies were bogged down at Casino. Len and I were free together for two months and four days. On December 5, 1943, we went to Villa Valerongo for food. During the night the Germans searched the houses and got us out of bed. So I was captured by the Germans again on December 6, 1943. This time I was successful in getting to Germany and arrived at Oflag 64 about the middle of January 1944. So, that is why I did not live in the White House -- I got there too late.

Thanks for sharing, Vic, we send our best wishes to you and Mary Nell, hoping to meet you over in Rhode Island.
VINCENT C. WHITE

WORCESTER, MA: Irving, we thank you for your order last summer of AN ORAL HISTORY, John K. Waters. At that time you also replied to Mr. Mack O'Quinn's letter regarding the Germans not allowing Doctors Abrahams and Batalion to practice medicine. Your letter stated that you did not remember Dr. Abraham(s), but you had the following experience with Dr. Abrams. This information you passed on to Mack O'Quinn. You mentioned that Martin Keiser could verify the following story about Capt. Fred Hughes as well.

"Capt. Fred Hughes was in my cubicle in barracks 3A. One day he came down with a stomach-ache. He went to the infirmary. I don't know which doctor he saw, but he was given the normal treatment, i.e., sodium bicarbonate. The next day he was worse. He went back and received more of the same. By the third day he couldn't stand upright and could barely walk. Dr. Abrams was in my mess table group, and I asked him if he would look at Fred. His response was, "I assume you know I'm not allowed in the infirmary, but if you have Fred wait until dark, I'll meet him there." Fred went to the infirmary, where Dr. Abrams immediately diagnosed him as having an appendix problem, either burst or ready to go, and recommended he go to the hospital immediately. I was not present but was told that one of the EM was sent to the gate, got the sentry to report the problem, and Fred went to the hospital that night. I don't recall whether Fred was operated on that night or the next morning, but as Fred reported, 'As I was going under the influence of the anesthetic I could see this big Polish woman surgeon standing over me with a scalpel in her hand and swearing at the d---- Americans who had killed her brother.'

Fred came through it OK and came back to our cubicle. I think the last time I saw Fred was the morning after our first night out of Oflag 64. Both he and I were put in charge of contingents of about 200, and he asked me to merge his with mine because he didn't feel up to the hike, and he stayed behind in the famous barn that first night. I know he got back. He was regular army, but never, so far as I know, came to a reunion, and I've heard via the grapevine that he died several years ago."

Such an experience for Fred Hughes would never be forgotten, and we thank you for telling it to us. We are grateful to have enjoyed another wonderful reunion over in Des Moines where we could be together again. Our best wishes to you.
IRVING J. YAROCK

CENTREVILLE, VA: George, we regretted not seeing you in Des Moines, but understand your very good reasons with the reunions conflicting, but most important a visit with your son who is taking basic infantry officers course at Ft. Benning.

In addition to that your nice article found in the latest copy of AMER-EX POW/MIA Bulletin entitled Talking Trivia was quite good and showed that humor of the camp and under less than pleasant walking conditions in the snow did exist.

"As the Soviet Armies came closer to our camp (Oflog 64 in Poland), the Germans marched us out to prevent liberation by the Russians. In the dead of winter we trudged in a column of twos for days, mile after cold wearisome mile. Our spirits were flagging, buoyed only by hope and a steady stream of chatter. It made no difference what we talked about, just as long as we continued to talk. All manner of trivia entered the conversation. One example a friendly argument:

Three of us argued about the distance from Washington to Baltimore. One guessed 30 miles, a second protested, 'it was more like 60 miles!' A third had a more sophisticated answer: he pointed out that Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis formed a perfect equilateral triangle and the distance between Washington and Annapolis was 40 miles. Therefore, the distance between Washington and Baltimore had to be 40 miles. As the argument 'ragged' a German civilian on a bicycle rode by and shouted, in excellent English, 'What are you guys quarreling about?' Stunned, one of the POWs shouted back, 'Where did you learn your English?'

'In America,' replied the German. 'I lived for 20 years in Baltimore.'

'Oh! And where did you work?'

'On the Baltimore and Ohio railroad,' was the answer.

'You're just the man we're looking for,' chimed the three in unison. 'What's the distance between Washington and Baltimore?'

'Forty miles,' the cyclist shot back. 'I've walked the tracks many a time!'

Another great story from you, for which we send our thanks, on Irving Yarock and his dedication to serving his community of Worcester, MA. We have a brief summary of the news release and program depicting "The Irving Yarock Award for Exceptional Community Leadership in Support of Elders and Their Families," held August 22, 1996.

The Telegram and Gazette Staff writer, Richard Duckett of Worcester described Irving as a "tireless worker," in the following: "Now that the Age Center of Worcester Area Inc. has established the annual Irving J. Yarock Award recognizing exceptional leadership in support of elders and their families, the person it is named after has yet another committee to serve on. Yarock, 79, became the first recipient of the award that bears his name during a dinner and presentation held Aug. 22 in Mechanics Hall. The idea is that the winner each year will become the chairman of a committee that will select next year's recipient.

Yarock isn't likely to say no to volunteering his time to the committee. It's a word he seldom utters when asked to help out in the community.

'If it's something worthwhile, it's difficult to say no,' Yarock said in an interview.

The list of organizations that Yarock has served as a president, board member or committee member may not quite go from A to Z, but it certainly goes from A to W from the Age Center of Worcester and Armed Forces Committee to the Worcester Jewish Community Committee, Worcester Rotary Club and Worcester Veterans Council. Add them all up, and there are well over 20 organizations in the area that Yarock has devoted his time to."

That gathering of friends and relatives brought people together to celebrate who

'he hadn't seen in years. It must have been a very happy and satisfying moment in Irv's life. This was a great honor and we feel privileged to be able to share it with you, though we are late in being able to do so...Congratulations!

Again, thanks to you, George for sharing this with us.
GEORGE JUSKALIAN

TAMPA, FL: Alvin, we thank you so much for your suggestion as to how the P.F. checks should be made payable and that will appear on the bottom of Page 2 from now on. And another thank you for your thoughtful contribution to the P.F..
Best Wishes.
ALVIN R. ROBIN

ALBANY, NY: Jim, we were sorry to learn that you would be unable to attend the reunion, but understand about previous commitments. You can read all about it in this issue since you mentioned how much you do enjoy the ITEM. Thank you for your kind words and the support of the P.F. Watch for news about the next gathering over in Newport, RI, and we'll try to see you there. Our best to you and Nan.
JIM MAC AREVEY

RITTMAN, OH: Gene, many thanks for your P.F. checks. You are being entered as a member of our mailing list for the ITEM. We all appreciate your deep interest and your close relationship with Henry Soderberg, a dear friend of all of us. Fortunately for all, Henry was able to make his long journey to Des Moines and join in on our reunion.

We realize your extended trip to Europe prevented your attending. We look forward to hearing from you upon your return and sharing some photos and notes from your detailed research of former POW and concentration camps while in Europe, including Oflag 64. (Gene is a distinguished professor of music and presently doing research on camps and POW art.)

Our best wishes for a successful and interesting trip.
GENE SHARICK

DUBLIN, OH: Stanley, we thank you for your recent book order of AN ORAL HISTORY, Gen. Waters. It is truly a fine tribute and hopefully, many others who have not received a copy will get it. It is a treasure, and we hope you agree.

Best wishes.
STANLEY STETSON

ALEXANDRIA, VA: Nate, many thanks for your thoughtful check to the P.F. It is good to hear from you, and we hope you are feeling better these days. We send our best wishes and look forward to our next time together.
NATHANIEL R. HOSKOT

WILLOW STREET, PA: Many thanks for your most helpful check to the P.F. What a nice Des Moines gathering we all enjoyed and now we can look forward to another in Newport. Warm regards to you and Betty.
GEORGE L. HERR

VIDALIA, GA: Bill, we have received your recent request for any information regarding a fellow trooper whom you met enroute to Le Havre. His rank was 1st Lt. and was wearing the Ranger patch, which he had earned as an observer with the costly British raid in 1942 on Dieppe. Any member who may recall this person please write to Bill Warthen at:

P.O. Box L
Vidalia, GA 30474
Good luck, Bill.
WILLIAM D. WARTHEN

ROCK ISLAND, IL: Jock, thank you for the copy of your story, it is truly a compelling one. Your troubles were not only the bad weather, but the equally as bad intransigence of the Russian military and their total indifference to any great effort to help us. Others among us using other routes noted the same experience which is somewhat like a paranoia or xenophobia, possibly instilled from Stalin in Moscow.

If any of you want a copy, please get in touch with John R. Sutherland
1509 Twenty First Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
It was good to see you and Lorraine at the Des Moines reunion. Best wishes to you both
JOHN R. SUTHERLAND

SAN JOSE, CA: Lloyd it was so nice hearing from you just after the July ITEM was sent. You wrote how you and Ralph Tedeschi served together in the 38th Inf., 2nd Div., and were both captured at the same time. We have included Ralph's address as you wanted to write to him to express your sympathy of the passing of his wife, Madeline.

Ralph Tedeschi
2828 NE 24th Place
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305

Those kind words for the ITEM are greatly appreciated, too. Our best wishes to you and Pat.

LLOYD BROWN

NAZARETH, PA: Thank you for your recent and very nice letter about Williard's war experience with the 23th Inf. Div. of Pennsylvania National Guard. It was truly a great one! I can well imagine Williard's pride when it was mentioned, and the unforgettable and daring Maj. Gen. Dutch Cota, its Commander. What a legend in himself. We thank you also for your order for AN ORAL HISTORY by Gen. Waters, and hope you enjoyed reading it. We are sorry you never had the opportunity to meet Gen. Waters, an unforgettable man.
Best wishes to you.

GLADYS SMITH

BRANDON, MS: Tom, we did miss you and Forrestine at the reunion in September, but understand so well that you could not be in two places at the same time.

The inauguration of a new president at Oak Ridge Military Academy was an event, as a member of the board of trustees, you could not miss. The importance of this successful school to you because of your grandfather and his brother being co-principals for 28 years and your own father president for almost 40 years goes without saying. With five full colonels being on the staff taking care of the military duties, ORMA drill team consisting of 12 girls and 12 boys couldn't miss taking national honors. You must have a great pride in the academy and what it is accomplishing.

We are so happy to learn you are recuperating better now from your recent knee operation. Hopefully we'll all see you

in Newport next September for the next reunion to be put on by Chris Heisler. Best regards to you and Forrestine.
THOMAS M. HOLT

VILLA PARK, ILL: Jim we thank you for your recent book order, and hope you've enjoyed reading about Gen. Waters as we have. It's good to keep in touch.
Best Wishes.
JAMES J. IVERSON

LONG BEACH, CA: Don thank you for your substantial book order and hope you are enjoying new reading. It is always good to hear from you.
Best regards.
DONALD A. OHL

SWARTHMORE, PA: Curtis we were disappointed to learn that you could not be with us in Des Moines in September. But do appreciate your check for the P.F. From this ITEM you can see that our next chance to be together will be in Newport, RI, in September 1997. We'll look forward to seeing you there.
Best wishes to you and Norma.
CURTIS S. JONES

LAKE GENEVA, WI: Tom your story sent in September was interesting, as all are, and we are including excerpts from your letter for all our readers. You stated that you went through North Africa, Sicily, and joined the 7th Inf. Regiment - 3rd Div. just above Naples in late October of 1943. At that time you were a 19-year old 2nd Lt. "From there it was north to the Volturno River and on to Monte Cassino. In about mid-December, we were taken off line and went into training for the Anzio landing on January 21-22, 1944. On February 29 (it was leap year) I was taken prisoner along with Lt. Charles Goodman (now deceased) and we were put into the usual pipeline of POW camps. First Cinema City, Rome - then further north to a camp we called Latrina, on over the Brenner Pass to Stalag 7A, Mooseburg, Germany, and eventually reaching Oflag 64 sometime after the middle of April 1944. If I remember right, our group was about 300-350 of mixed-bag officers...I ended up being the youngest officer in camp, the next being Bob Watt from one of the

Ranger Battalions who was six months older - hence the name, "The Young-un." After the D-Day landings and POWs began arriving in camp, a lieutenant from the 101st Paratroops showed up who was a month younger than me." (Tom was 72 in October).

Yes, I did make the long march to Parchim, then on to Hammelburg, Nurenburg, Mooseburg, and finally liberation. My march buddy was Pat Trainor, a lieutenant from the 45th Div. When I got home, I found that I'd been promoted to 1st Lieutenant and had a Bronze Star and Purple Heart to boot. After separation from service, I stayed in the Reserves, got married, went to college, started a family, etc. etc., and in April 1951 was recalled for duty in Korea which is another story in itself."

Tom, we were sorry you couldn't make it to the Des Moines reunion, but surely we'll see you in Newport. There are more details to your story that would be good to share. As you stated, "Can't make it this year, but will try for next - so many of my 'old cronies' have passed on - it's time to make new friends before it's too late." No truer words have been spoken.

We thank you so much for taking the time to write, and we send our best wishes to you and Mary Virginia.
THOMAS R. JOHNSON (YOUNG-UN)

CHEYENNE, WY: Evelyn thank you so much for your thoughtful contribution to the P.F. Our reunion would not have been complete without you. It was a treat to meet your daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Jim Mason from Omaha. They just fit right in with all that we did. Whenever we get to meet our comrade's relatives it seems to draw us all closer and we thank them for joining in.

Now we'll all be hoping to renew ourselves again in Newport next fall. We surely hope so. Our best wishes for you and your family.
EVELYN KORBER

CLEVELAND, OH: Sid we were disappointed that you were unable to make it to the reunion, but surely understand. We send our best wishes to your wife dealing with her recent illness and hope that her condition is improving.

It is always nice to hear from everyone and we would all agree when you write that you "...have not forgotten about the friendships, the sharing of danger and close comradery experienced as a Kriegie." That applies to all of us.

Thank you so much for your contribution to the P.F. That is what has kept the ITEM going and us in touch with one another.

Our best wishes to you and your wife.
SID WALDMAN

HILO, HI: Fred after just making the long trip to Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, it would not have been possible to double back again and cross the Pacific to Des Moines, but you were missed.

Your reason for being in Canada is of such great importance we feel our readers will be interested in what you are doing over there in Hawaii.

"Although I'm doubtful that most of our members ever heard of the Y's Men's Clubs, it has been through this route that I've been able to repay in small part my debt to the YMCA for all the help we received in Oflag 64. Briefly, these are volunteer clubs which have the primary function of supporting the local YMCA and other worthwhile charitable organizations. I have the honor of being president of the local Hilo club, one of the largest in the U.S. Clubs are active now in 42 countries. An international convention was just concluded in Fredericton, my reason for being there. We are a fund-raising club --- one of seven in the State of Hawaii --- which raises funds through sale of Christmas trees, holding luaus, etc. Last year, our club gained almost \$50,000 and that was a bad year! I'm also the bulletin editor of our monthly news bulletin and recently included an article on Henry Soderberg and some of his activities on behalf of Oflag 64. The article carried

the unoriginal title of 'The Welcome Swede,' what else?" Perhaps we will hear more about the Y's Men's Clubs over in Newport next September - we will look forward to it.

Thank you so much for your contribution to the P.F. We send our best wishes and Aloha, too, to you and your wife, Lani.
FRED LIVINGSTON

ASHEBORO, NC: Charlie our congratulations on the two recent events which show us your interest in serving the local communities near you. The case in point is the establishment of an annual scholarship fund to assist second-year nursing students of the local Randolph Community College from the American Legion, of which you are the First Vice Commander. Nice work and we are proud.

Second, on Friday, September 20, the Veterans Administration Medical Center in nearby Salisbury, NC, was the site of a delightful Recognition Day for most all the POW and MIA families in about a 100-mile radius of the facility. Almost 150 guests attended and we heard three brief speeches on captivity with an Army nurse in the Bataan March, an Army Air Force pilot shot down over Europe and a foot soldier in one of the divisions in Europe. Very poignant and compelling stories so well presented. The highlight of the day was the meeting for the first time in awhile of four from Oflag 64. They were Gen. Jack Dodson from nearby Bermuda Village, Tom Wingate from Kannapolis, Charlie Cheatham from Asheboro and Herb Garris from Pinehurst. What a joy it was to see each other and to compare notes, visit and enjoy the catered buffet brunch. Many thanks to the hospital for their care and hospitality.

ROBERT "CHEERFUL CHARLIE" CHEATHAM



Herb Garris, Gen. Dodson, Charlie Cheatham

BANGOR, ME: Milt we all send you our prayers and best wishes there in the Maine Veterans Home. You were missed over in Des Moines at our fine reunion. There were many others who like you could not make it, but our thoughts were with all in our group at that time.

Thank you and Dot so much for your thoughtful contribution to the P.F. We send our sincere greetings.
MILTON JELLISON

NORTHWOOD, IA: Charlie what a terrible disappointment for you to have such a serious fall and just days before your plans to attend the reunion in Des Moines. We all send you our best wishes for a recovery and soon. Thank you for writing to let us know. Take hope though, next September we'll do all this again over in Newport, RI - we're counting on you to get well and join us there.
Sincerely
CHARLES L. JONES

TULSA, OK: Bob, even though you couldn't be with us in Des Moines, it looks like you are making great plans early now for Newport, maybe even to extend your visit before and after. There are many of us who are unfamiliar with that part of our great country and it will be a new experience for us as well.

Your recall of the lack of reading material in POW camps prior to your visit to Oflag 64 shows your deep appreciation of reading. "We would get so desperate for something to read that we would read the lettering on a package of cigarettes and then pass it around. We would read the text on a chewing gum wrapper and then pass it around. One fellow had a copy of the New Testament, which I read three times while we spent about a month at Strasbourg." Appetites weren't just to satisfy a longing for food. Once the need for knowledge is stimulated, it becomes a habitual desire just like our need for food.

We thank you for writing and wish you and Gladys the best.
ROBERT THOMPSON

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEND A CARD OF GOOD WISHES TO MILT, THE ADDRESS IS: M/M MILTON JELLISON
41 FOUNTAIN STREET
BANGOR, ME 04401

ST. PETERSBURG, FL: Russ many thanks for your P.F. check. Our readers will remember your story in the ITEM this past July, "Reflections on Things Past and Future," written during a two-hour layover in the Innsbruck station back in 1949. Russ has another story on the way as a companion piece and we're ready for more of your writing. Keep up your creativity and your good health.

Best wishes.
RUSSELL H. FORD

SWARTHMORE, PA: Tom what a bad reason you had for having to miss your first reunion in many years - the complete knee replacement. We send our best wishes that by now you are getting around with confidence. Thank you so much along with all this, you took time to send a check to the P.F. and kind words for receiving the ITEM. Take care, Tom, so that we can see you next September in Newport.

Best regards.
THOMAS E. MILLER, JR.

CLEARWATER, FL: George you were missed over in Des Moines, but take heart, there will be another chance and closer to your home. Newport, RI, will be our gathering spot next September and we hope those folks you have been missing these past reunions will gather there, too. We thank you so much for your contribution to the P.F. and look forward to being with you once more.

Best wishes to you and Janet.
GEORGE ROSENTHAL

OAKLAND, CA: Jim during these past years you have always been such a good support for our group, but the happiest moments of all are when we look up and see you and Jeff greeting everyone as you arrive. Our gathering in Des Moines was, as you've said, one of the best. It seemed like there was more time to visit and reach into each others' past, as we value so dearly.

Your encouraging words about the ITEM have kept us on top of things, too. Thanks so much for your P.F. checks, they are so appreciated.

Our best wishes to you and Jeff.
JIM SHERMAN

STANWOOD, MI: Jay we thank you for your nice letter and check for the P.F. Many of us were so happy to see your story in the EX-POW BULLETIN, "Nine Days to Freedom," which appeared in our July ITEM.

That contact for you turned out to be a rare reunion of your own. Through the American EX-POW staff you were able to locate Robert Corbin and Dallas Smith, principals of your story. This led to the meeting of the three of you in Bob Corbin's home town of Dayton, Ohio. After being separated for 51 years, this must have been a real heart-warmer. Our private internet is alive and well.

We send best wishes to you and Joe Bet.
JAY A. DRAKE

DES MOINES, IA: Herb Garris writes that Martin (Dewey) Wood served so well on the Hub and Bob registration team. Their contact with one another resulted in the ordering of Joe Frelinghuysen's book, PASSAGES TO FREEDOM, for Martin, and relates the following:

"There is a case study here of the close similarity in the two stories of Joe and Martin. The latter was a member of the renowned 168th Infantry Regiment, and was wounded in the Kasserine Pass area and evacuated to Palermo, Bari and northward on to the Adriatic Sea to Ascoli along the high Apennine chain. He escaped and spent 11 months with an Italian family. Finally, he was repatriated by the British 3th Army on its move north and east of Rome. I was simply fascinated by his story, told with no bravado, but just plain guts and determination, noted so often in the Iowans I have met."

Our thanks to Martin for telling his story, and we wish him good luck.
MARTIN E. WOOD

SPOKANE, WA: Herm it was good to see you in Des Moines and looking so well. Many thanks for the fine group of photos that came recently from you. Your work both in the reunion area and out at the bridges of Madison County is commendable.

Our best wishes to Lucille and you.
HERMAN LITTMAN

SOUTHERN PINES, NC: Marsh, congratulations on the fine work of your son, Marsh. We see he is referred to as the environmental attorney, for his support of your local Weymouth Woods' lovely nature preserve and bounty of wildlife. In addition, his community interests involving schools, zoning and economic development. These are all such worthwhile endeavors and we wish him the very best in pursuing his interests.

Best regards to you and Page.
MARSH SMITH

KINSTON, NC: Marion, thank you so much for the map and the explanation of the flood waters which began with Fran and left your city in a deluge. It is not the first, or possibly the last one, for the Neuse River just south of town has quite a reputation over the years for its vulnerability to the headwaters flow eastward with continued heavy rains.

While in Des Moines we had a first-time aboard with Ray Holmquist and his son-in-law, Bret Job, a military buff, from the Minneapolis area. Ray was in the 30th Infantry Division and the 120th Infantry Regiment, and he was captured near Mortain, not far from where you were taken. He ended up in Oflag 64 and took the Odessa Route as we did in late January. Enjoyed seeing and talking to them both - and thought of you.

However, it was the persistence of Ray's daughter and son-in-law that brought him to Des Moines, his first reunion with us, and we hope not the last. Bret has an exciting story to tell about his and his wife's unannounced visit to Oflag 64 in Schubin, not long ago. They were trying to get information about her father's war-time experiences and had one of their own. But that is Bret's story and we are looking forward to receiving it to share with all our members.

Thanks again for the update on your first-hand adventures with Fran. Our best wishes for you and Lillian.
MARION PARROTT

ROCKVILLE, MD: Sam thank you for keeping us posted as to your whereabouts. We have noted on our address list that you are now living in Rockville, MD, having moved from Paducah, KY.

It is so helpful for the success of our mailings to have any address changes as our envelopes are not forwarded if the addressee has moved. We don't want to have anyone miss out on their ITEM, without our being aware of it. (The envelopes aren't returned to us either.)

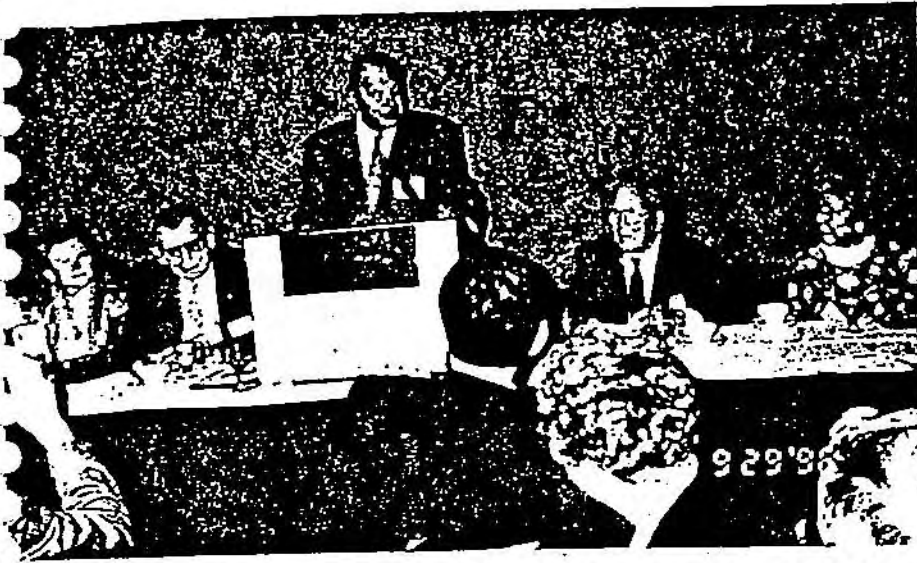
Hope you enjoy your new place. Best wishes.
SAMUEL CARLICK

VÄLLINGBY, SWEDEN: Henry you'll never know the excitement that is always generated over your visits, especially while everyone is awaiting your arrival and not being quite certain if you've caught that long flight from Sweden. So, it was wonderful to see you arrive once more. No reunion would be complete without you and your cheerful message at our banquet.

We are all so very pleased with the generosity you showed to the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge of your treasured gift of the gramophone records of life in Oflag 64. It was truly a fine and most welcome gesture. Your gift is an example of what many of us might do with our memorabilia of Oflag 64 when it comes time to part with it. The Director, Tom Bolton, would be most pleased and careful to add to his interesting POW collection.

Your nice letter with the photograph taken in Des Moines came recently and we thank you. Our very best wishes are sent for Claire's brother in Switzerland for his speedy recovery of his illness. We sincerely hope that both you and Claire will be with us next September in Newport. For this you won't have quite so far to travel, either.

Our very best to you, an invaluable friend, always so available and giving.
HENRY SÖDERBERG



Arlene - Hub Henry Söderberg Bob - Lillie



LTC King - Herb Garris



John Slack Roy Chappell Verris Hubbell



Eckman - Garris - Hubbell



Mrs. Lawson Henry Gen. Lawson Bob Lillie
Arlene Hub

GRAND JUNCTION, CO: This is to be the last issue of the ITEM that will be put together in Colorado. The next year's output will come through the capable and willing efforts of Don and Lucy Lussenden of Livonia, MI, in connection with John Slack once more. (We are so happy to report that John is back in business for us.) The 1995 ITEMS were done by them, so you know they are not strangers to our subject. There should be no break in the flow of wonderful information from one to the other.

So many of our readers have kindly thanked the staff of the ITEM, but it is you yourselves that have filled the pages with stories and information we all need and enjoy. Your letters and pictures, directed to Herb Garris, Bob Levin, or John Slack drift over these many miles to our home and it all comes together in your homes as news. Everyone has cooperated, but the secret ingredient comes from Herb. He's been totally committed and tireless in his dedication to this subject.

We have enjoyed working with all of you so much and feel honored to have been asked to join in on this effort, as well as enriched by the experience. Thank you, all of you; we hope that our issues have brought you some pleasure and some worthwhile information. It is said that in giving we receive, and you all have given so much towards this project - we all are reaping a bountiful harvest.

TOM AND SUE LAWSON

ATTENDEES DES MOINES REUNION 9/25-29/96

Ainsworth, Joe & Ruth
 Aschim, Bob & Gladys
 Barrett, Joe & Mary
 Bradford, O.L.
 Bonomi, Bob
 Cannon, Roger & Ruby
 Chappell, Roy & Helene
 Chevalier, Maurice
 Diggs, Frank
 Eckman, Bob & Lillie
 Edsal, Les & Edith
 Euler, Roger
 Garris, Herb - John Sword (guest)
 Graf, Ed & Peggy
 Graul, Don
 Gray, Bill & Jean

Hatch, Jerry
 Heisler, Chris & Gloria
 Herr, George & Betty
 Holder, Boomer & Clementi
 Holmquist, Ray - Bret Job (guest)
 Hubbell, Verris & Arlene
 Keiser, Martin
 Klinkenborg, Ray & Nancy - Abby (guest)
 Korber, Evelyn - Jim & Mary Mason (guests)
 Lawson, Tom & Sue
 Lee, Royal & Harriet
 Littman, Herman & Lucille
 Lowe, Lewis & Janet
 Lussenden, Don & Lucy
 Muehlbauer, George & Evelyn
 Peeples, Rod & Evelyn
 Providica, Rocco & Lois
 Rathbone, Jack - Juliet (guest)
 Sherman, Jim - Jeff (guest)
 Slack, John
 Smith, Matt & Bel
 Söderberg, Henry
 Spaulding, Horace & Mary
 Sutherland, Jock & Lorraine
 Thal, Sid
 Thomson, Vinton - Donna Werriner (guest)
 Van Vliet, John & Lynne
 Waful, Don & Olga
 Warthen, Bill & Dot
 Wilcox, Lew
 Wilson, Wallace
 Yarock, Irv

Dinner Guests:

Maj. Gen. Warren & Betty Lawson
 Brig. Gen. Al & Kitty Rolfe
 Col. Dick & Mrs. Moss
 Lt. Col. Bob & Peggy King
 Mr. Martin E. Wood
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bolton

INVERNESS, FL: Jacqui we thank you for staying in touch, since Harry's death last February 29, in spite of all your "yard-guy" chores.

You wrote of Harry's life of service with one of the most important being in the prison on Monday nights, even when it was a holiday. His Bible study and seminars were continued as long as he was able, and then others, he'd trained, were able to keep it going.

The value of this effort is shown by your description in the following: "Perhaps the most touching tribute to Harry was when his cortege went past the prison on

the way to the nearby Veterans' Cemetery. Someone managed to get word to the prisoners, the funeral director slowed the cars and there at the fence were Harry's guys, some saluting, some with their hands held in the air in a 'praise the Lord' fashion, some just standing, but all with tears running down their faces. Not a dry eye made it to the service and our Pastor had a most difficult time trying to read Matthew 25 (when I was in prison you visited me...) which he decided on at the moment we passed those men. I spent an evening with them in May and it was most difficult and equally wonderful."

You've given us a clear and sensitive picture of Harry's character and we thank you for sharing this with us.

We send you our best wishes.
JACQUI FRAZEE

DALLAS, TX: Somehow our July ITEM was received by Harmon Watkins, Attorney; it had been mailed to Tom McHale. Mr. Watkins wrote to inform us that Tom died on November 12, 1994.

We have requested an obituary explaining that our newsletter, THE ITEM, has been in print since its founding at Oflag 64 in Poland in 1943. But we have not received any additional information.
TOM McHALE

SAN RAFAEL, CA: Matt, we do thank you so much for your P.F. contribution and the sad news of Tom Drake. Since many were not at the Des Moines gathering as you were, this will be for their benefit.

"Tom Drake, died of heart failure in May of this year. The younger Tom was never a POW but because of the high regard in which his father was held by the men of Oflag 64, there was a natural affinity toward our group. He and Patty attended several of our reunions and Tom, assisted by Jim Sherman, hosted the highly successful reunion in San Diego. He died peacefully in his favorite easy chair."

Thank you for passing this information on to us. We will follow your letter with another from Patty.

Our best wishes to you and Bel.
MATTHEW C. SMITH

SAN DIEGO, CA: Patty we thank you for sending us the information about your Tom. We know so many in our group will want to know.

You also sent word about Quincey Neil Drake, widow of Col. Thomas Davison Drake. She passed away on December 23, 1995, after a long illness. Quincey often attended our reunions after her husband's death and often with Tom Drake. She was a great supporter of our Oflag group and a lovely lady remembered by many of our members.
MRS. THOMAS D. DRAKE, II

THOMAS DAVISON DRAKE II; HELPED U.S. DEVELOP STARLIGHT SCOPE

Col. Thomas Davison Drake II, a decorated Korean War veteran who helped develop a night-vision device for weapons, died of heart failure Sunday (May 26, 1996) in his University City home. He was 72.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Col. Drake worked from 1963 to 1965 on the starlight scope a device that has been used over the years in both military and civilian settings.

He was selected in 1969 to team with a British military representative in creating the Iranian National Defense University which was modeled after the U.S. Army War College.

For the next five years, on loan from the U.S. government, Col. Drake was responsible to the shah of Iran.

The shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, was deposed in 1979 by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini during Iran's Islamic revolution.

While serving in Iran, Col. Drake was named to the board of directors of the International School of Tehran.

Earlier in his military career, he had received the Silver Star for combat in Korea, commanded an armored infantry battalion in Germany and served on the general staff at the Pentagon.

He was a 1966 graduate of the U.S. Army War College and earned a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University.

The son of an Army officer, Col. Drake was born in Parkersburg, WV. He lived

at various sites throughout the world as a child.

At age 9, after his parents divorced, he traveled by himself on trains and ships from San Antonio, Texas, to the Philippines to visit his father.

Col. Drake settled in San Diego 21 years ago after his release from the military.

He was a former vice president of the West Point Society of San Diego and was active in International Friends of UCSD, the San Diego Historical Society, the Good Sam Club and the Church of the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church.

His church activities included serving on the vestry and in the music ministry.

Col. Drake's hobbies included gourmet cooking, traveling in his recreational vehicle and golf.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Patricia; two daughters, Robyn Swanland, of San Diego, and Shelley Drake Kincaid, of Poway, two sons, Thomas D. Drake III, of San Diego, and Charles "Pete" Drake, of Alpine; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for 3 p.m. tomorrow at Church of the Good Samaritan, 4321 Eastgate Mall, San Diego. Donations are suggested to the American Heart Association, the Arthritis Foundation or the building fund of Church of the Good Samaritan.

Patty, you were so kind to share this plus the "21 Bell Salute" during Tom's memorial service. You noted that he had donated one octave of these bells. A lasting memorial for such a noble man and his family.

We send you our sympathy and prayers.
MRS. THOMAS DAVISON DRAKE II

IVORYTON, CT: Mary Jane, word of the great loss in your life of Carl, your husband of 51 years, reached us through several friends from the Oflag 64 group - and then your note. There are so many among us who share in your sorrow as Carl was held in such high regard by the men who have also known him for over 50 years. Your note tells us what a kind man he was as well as brilliant in his field

of linguistics and languages. For you stated that, "He never held any bitterness!" As a Fulbright Scholar in Innsbruck, Austria, from 1956-1960, he never mentioned his POW experience either to his students or colleagues. Your pride in him shows when you proclaim, "What a guy!"

His fellow Kriegies have said that he was such an asset to all who knew him in Schubin, and they will miss him sorely.

We all extend our sympathy and prayers to you and your fine family.

MRS. CARL V. HANSEN

If you would care to write, her address is:
Mrs. Mary Jane Hansen
8 Mitchell Terrace
Ivoryton, CT 06442

CARL V. HANSEN

SANBORNTON - Professor Carl Victor Hansen, 77, Lt. Col., U.S. Army, retired of Ivoryton, Ct., and Sanbornton, died at his home in Sanbornton on Saturday, June 29, 1996.

Born in West Haven, CT, on May 16, 1919, he was the son of the late Hans and Kirsten (Madsen) Hansen. He summered in Sanbornton for more than 51 years and in 1993 moved from West Hartford, CT, to Sanbornton as his permanent home.

Mr. Hansen graduated from Hamden High School in 1937 and Yale University in 1941, Phi Beta Kappa, majoring in philosophy. As a member of Yale ROTC, he became a lieutenant with the 91st Armored Division, with awards of medals in marksmanship.

He was captured by the Germans in 1943 in North Africa and spent two and a half years in a prison camp, OFLAG 64, with other captured officers. He began teaching German to the other prisoners and was camp interpreter.

Liberated in 1945, he married Mary Jane Stone of Hamden, CT, and Sanbornton.

He was stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., with Army Intelligence for a year.

He returned to Yale for his MA and PhD in

German while teaching at Yale. He taught at Indiana University from 1950-1953 and was a professor at Trinity College in Hartford from 1956-1984, where he taught German, Russian and linguistics. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Innsbruck, Austria from 1956-1960 where he taught English and English literature.

He was a long-time member of the West Hartford Congregational Church and associate member of the Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC. He was a member of Harmony Grange No. 99.

He was known for his vast history of aviation history. He was a retired lieutenant colonel from the Army and Army Reserves, serving for 20 years.

His family includes his wife of 51 years. Mary Jane (Stone) Hansen of Sanbornton; two sons, Thomas Hansen of Wellesley, MA, and Matthew Hansen of Ivoryton, CT; two daughters, Victoria Wentworth of Newington, CT, and Ruth Hansen of Sanbornton; two grandchildren, Sara Wentworth of Newington, CT, and Nicholas Hansen of Wellesley, MA; two brothers, Richard Hansen of West Haven, CT, and Ainar Hansen of West Haven, CT; a sister, Elfrieda Wilson of West Haven, CT; and a niece and two nephews.

DENVER, CO: Jack, having your daughter, Juliet, at the Des Moines gathering was so nice. Whenever any of the daughters or sons of our members join us, it is a treat. Juliet just blended in so well. It was invigorating to talk with her about her work as a Veterinarian specializing in ophthalmology and learning that she serves with the faculty of the Vet School of Purdue University. You must be very proud of her achievements.

It was a treat also to be able to see your book, "Mountains and Canyons," and we thank you for bringing it along. Your black and white photography of the Rocky Mountain region in itself makes the book a true keepsake. So many of the photos were of familiar places, and you worked long and hard to get just the right light, shades and angles it's obvious. No meager task, as anyone who

has tried high altitude mountainous photography would agree. We have included here a review by Herb Garris which will give our readers an idea of your book's content. This is another achievement for which you can be very proud.

Good Luck!
JACK RATHBONE

Photogenic Mountains

MOUNTAINS AND CANYONS: A PHOTOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Jack Rathbone

The Rocky Mountain Assoc., of Geologists, 820 Sixteenth Street, Suite 505, Denver, Colo. 80202, \$32.50

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS

The dedication of this excellent book, written by the president of the RMAG, is a tribute to the science of geology and to the author and his staff of writers and artists. The author is an old friend of many years, and is the official photographer for the RMAG. His skill is shown here on the dust cover and all across the pristine Rocky Mountain region within the book.

An unusual property of the narrative-photo presentation is its combination of a story of specific geologic formations of millions of years ago, which may be seen even today in the six states of the West.

Aside from the high quality photos placed in a sequential geographic arrangement, are accompanying graphic sketches, very well done, to explain the earth's powerful action and the resulting erosion effects with aging processes. It could easily become a treasure for nature lovers and a showpiece for all who love skiing and have seen the areas shown.

This reviewer, like many of the readers, has stood in awe of the Rockies since my first visit to the area many years ago.

For the prospective reader any concerns about the complex terms of geology and the many associated words related are easily allayed, for on most all of the 96 examples shown are an explicit appendage of the terms used and timetable of the geological eras.

We are aware that the continents of the world today are not nearly the same as they were in their original form. Further, that volcanic eruptions, the plate stresses, the mineral compositions and the eventual aging or erosion have produced monumental effects in the changes.

We also are aware that here in the Sandhills of North Carolina we see large areas of pure white beach ocean sand, as well as relics of seashells. Thus it is indicative that perhaps the Atlantic Ocean may have been nearby many years ago.

In a recent book showing the great natural beauty of Colorado one photo stands out immediately and it is of the awesome Independence Monument near Grand Junction, Col. It obviously struck the author's eye for it has been selected and vividly described with great pride.

In summary this reviewer with hesitation recommends to all our readers this elegant and most enlightening picture story. To the author many thanks for a demonstration of your professional photographic talent with such a splendid work.

Participants Relate Memories Of D-Day

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS
VOICES OF D-DAY: The Story of the Allied Invasion Told by Those Who Were There, Ronald J. Drez, Editor, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, La., 1994, 310 pp., \$24.95.

This book is yet another of the memorable D-Day June 6, 1944. A day this reviewer well recalls since he jumped there in Normandy with the 101st Airborne Division.

It is somewhat like the many personal views, accounts and comments made before, during and after the 50th anniversary celebrations two years ago. In some cases the interviewees came off in a mediocre style. Others were inarticulate or seemingly less alert than was expected. A few handled themselves well.

There is no disappointment at all like that here. The editor's ingenious use of some 1,400 oral histories reduced to the 150 most usable for inclusion is truly admirable and was very wisely done. He also provided fine photographs of some of the Allied and German personnel involved, off loading from the incoming landing crafts, and one formidable beach gun emplacement.

Very useful indeed were the nearly a dozen maps conveniently placed in chronological order of the discussion of the air and sea approaches. The vast preparations well in advance for this event leads the reader into a sequence of out of this world proportions.

Another unique view of this author in direct contrast to many who have done the similar operation is that he undertook and did well in his discussion of all five beach landings, English and American, generally they are separated. This is wider in scope and more worthwhile.

It provides a concise story of gains, losses and many problem areas and the never expected initiative exercised by the dedicated landing troops across a relatively narrow and well defended 60 mile front. More painful to read and fully appreciate were these most

The weather was far from desirable and its toll was further complicated in many ways. The troops were overloaded to the gills impeding any real efficiency to move off and fight well. Landing craft commanders did a great disservice in too early releasing the exit ramps in water often six to eight feet deep, so costly and deadly for many. Then the too early lifting of the naval gun fire and close in tactical fighter support over the heads of the assault troops was a grievous error which allowed the defending forces with their full use of machine guns, light artillery, mortars and coastal direct fire weapons to slaughter unmercifully at will the incoming borders.

On the personal side the C-47 air drops of parachutists and glider tows in some cases never came near the designated drop zones at all. Many were left to drown in water areas and others abandoned miles from the parent units. This reviewer can attest to that with accuracy. These regretful moves in the initial phase caused slowness and confusion in assembly with some perilous losses on Omaha Beach, soon called Normandy's primary killing ground.

The narrative moves along in a well written and easy to follow manner with a very thoughtful preface of the author and his achievements by none other than Stephen Ambrose, another esteemed WWII writer. The average length of the interviews selected ran from the front line soldiers to the highest senior American and British leaders present with about a page or two each in coverage. The readers will be amazed at the valiant and magnificent effort these men played in their roles to secure that beach hold and yet to remain alive in doing it in the process.

The editor's splendid introduction is a remarkable wrap up of most of many delicate details upon which the invasion was based. Even the vast disagreements among the very senior Allied leaders were openly voiced and resolved. This largest

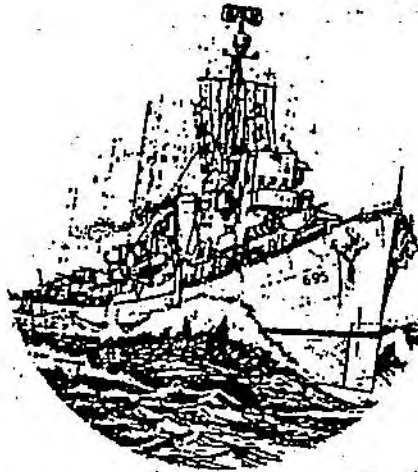
historical event and perhaps undreamed of in modern military history was launched early in the morning of June 6, 1944.

The sequence undertaken may be briefly stated as follows: a short study of the English Channel Crossing Lanes, a detail sketch of the five landing areas selected, some closer looks at Utah and Omaha beaches, and the overall Cotentin Peninsula below Cherbourg, as well as the close view of the attacking forces and the German defending forces.

In sum, to save and not spoil the gripping story with its accounts of courage, and heroism for the readers you simply must get a copy and read and enjoy it.

A salute to the editor and his mentor, Stephen Ambrose, for such a well written account of "Voices Of D-Day." Our best wishes go out to those of who were also there and saw and experienced similar events and actions as portrayed so very well. Also a tribute is extended to the author, who as a former Marine officer saw his share of death and destruction in Viet Nam, and for his service there was awarded two Bronze Stars and the Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry. Congratulations for such an understanding and appreciation of sacrifice in the nth degree. A job well done!

The Last Voyage Of The USS RICH



Edwin B. Black

Survivors Of Wartime Sinking Share Stories

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS
THE LAST VOYAGE OF THE
USS RICH, Edwin B. Black,
Editor, WFC Press, P.O. Box 3187,
Pembroke 28372, 1996, 143 pp.

This is a compelling and conglomerate narrative edited by a friend of the reviewer, for over 40 years. He is well known across Moore County and the state for his dedicated and loyal patriotic fervor well demonstrated over the past two years in connection with D-Day in France. He is exemplary in his determined will to never give up in spite of the serious injuries he received while on the crew of the Rich.

A parallel in this review and one recently submitted on D-day is that they both are cases of the respective editors submitting to the participants of the event some questions, which in this instance were the 44 remaining survivors. The families of those deceased were also invited to send in their best recollections of the story.

The reader will find considerable redundancy in the reports but there is consistency in the stories of this disaster at sea. The composite is unrestrained for it not only was filled with the scene but what has happened since with the brave men and their achievements.

The book's first three chapters are dedicated to a naval history of the ship and its naming, its early duty as convoy escort in the North Atlantic and the final assignment to escort the USS Nevada for the invasion force.

The following chapter covering actions of World War II is enhanced and easy to read, using the maps of the Normandy landing sites and relating the fatal event in which the Rich was ordered to assist the USS Glennon, a destroyer, in distress from a mine explosion.

The party was waved on and dismissed with a warning that mines were afloat and to beware. Briefly the Rich then suffered from three mine blasts which broke the hull in

two parts, and in 15 minutes sank about three miles off the shore near the Isles of San Marcouf. Several official reports validate the painful story.

The single most touching segment of the work covers the real heroes of the Rich, those who lost their lives in the disaster. It includes several photos, news articles and fitting scenes at some of the cemeteries here at home and in France. Certainly the research done in the preparation for this book is admirable and so respectfully and near reverently written in such a poignant and personal way.

The reunions have been thoughtfully planned and reasonably well attended by these dedicated seamen so grateful for their good fortune. A day in history nearly impossible to forget.

The crew of the Rich deserves a salute and the highest accolades for a story which needed to be told. In sum, it is fine and interesting work and rates "a job well done."

From Fighters To Jets

FOREVER FLYING

By R.A. "Bob" Hoover
Pocket Books. 291 pp., 1996,
\$24.

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS

What a treat is in store for the readers about one great individual. Bob Hoover was in the age group that caught the vision of Charles Lindbergh and his sensational flight from the U.S. to Paris in 1927.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., he finished high school and soon enlisted in the Tennessee Air National Guard. In September 1940 his unit was called to active duty. During this period Hoover was literally taught, with lots of encouragement, how to fly, which soon led to many weekends barnstorming with his friends. He was then accepted for flight training with the rapidly expanding Army Air Force and upon successfully completing his final test was awarded his wings and became a fighter pilot.

With the invasion of North Africa, Hoover's unit left from England, by ship, first to Oran and later on to Casablanca. There he was stymied for a period as a test pilot of the many new planes arriving from the states.

Finally, he was able to be transferred to the 52nd fighter group and was designated a flight leader.

The date of Feb. 9, 1943 soon became a landmark for Hoover. He engaged in a dog fight with a German FW 190 and was shot down in the Mediterranean Sea near Sicily. In a few hours he was rescued by the crew of a German corvette and became a prisoner of war. Defiance, strong will and determination coupled with a burning desire to escape led exactly to that end and is indeed miraculous.

In April 1945, Hoover and two other pilots were able to find their way out of the infamous Stalag Luft I near Barth on the Baltic Sea. By then the Russians had taken



R.A. "Bob" Hoover

them and what a horrendous example they witnessed of the most barbaric conduct ever seen.

In a short time they came near a deserted German airfield and saw a number of FW 109s parked along the runway. Hoover then coerced a German guard to lead him to one of the planes and he flew away in it, with much trepidation because of the clearly visible German markings, along the North Sea into Holland by the Zuider Zee, where the Dutch and British troops welcomed him back to the allies.

A rotation to the states led Hoover into the rapid progress being made at Wright Field in Dayton of many new and far advanced planes of the future. Initially he became a test pilot for the P-59s and the P-80s, our first jet fighters.

His career was certainly not without some bad moments yet he was in good company with Chuck Yeager, the first to break the sound barrier in flight. This takes the reader almost to the half-way point in the book.

It seems a fair and begging question--what sort of a man is Hoover? On the one side he was a born survivor moving along rapidly

into testing the dangerous new jet planes. His life had been a string of

accidents normal for the type of pilot he was, but even more compelling was his keen interest in stunt and exhibition shows at every available occasion. His strong personality and resilience enabled him to bounce back after each adversity. Hoover was a hard man to manage, for not only was he good, but he made people aware of it, which was totally exasperating for some of his superiors.

On matters of air safety, if there was the slightest question, even if there were forced corporate deadlines to meet, Hoover spoke out, and his recommendations were followed.

His association with notables in military and civil life assisted in his contributions in the trying aerodynamics tests.

The photos of Hoover and his friends and the numerous planes with which he was involved are remarkable and a very interesting aside is that the test pilots in these early years became the source of our soon to follow space programs.

The revealing exploits of Bob Hoover still continue around the world and into many corporations, but always his first love is still stunt flying and simulated dog fights.

The tough treatment by the Federal Aviation Administration with an unfortunate revocation of his flying license was costly and painful but Hoover was awarded a renewal after over a years legal battles.

It is a remarkable book and much of the credit goes to Mark Shaw, a long time friend and associate. It is strongly recommended for readers of aviation in general but more specifically the fighter pilots.

MacArthur Called Complex, Ambitious

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS
OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE:
The Life of Douglas MacArthur,
Geoffrey Perrett, Random House,
New York, 1996, 663 pp., \$32.50.

This book is truly the finest presentation this reviewer has yet seen on MacArthur. It is very well researched and written in a fair and articulate style as he reveals to the reader in considerable detail this most complex and ambitious person. He was human in many ways but could be equally dramatic and an accomplished actor in almost every step that he took in his near meteoric rise in his career.

He was with warts: envy, jealous, scheming, a demand for total loyalty, stubborn and super sensitive of any criticism directed toward him. It would be unlikely for one with such a combination of faults to succeed as a military leader. This meant he virtually patterned his own career. This also meant either avoiding duty under someone likely to submit an unfavorable rating, or having to seek an immediate reassignment upon the receipt of one bad report. His capricious personality led to his downfall and relief by President Truman in 1951. It is pointed out clearly that their disdain and possibly outright hatred for each other was mutual.

Yet, Truman was treated with disrespect and simply would not tolerate it. Nor should any Commander in Chief be treated so shabbily in public by a subordinate in such a manner. Even so, Roosevelt was treated nearly as badly.

It is a rare and distinct story which the author provides on the strange relation he devotedly held with his mother. What other cadet at West Point ever could have enjoyed his mother's omnipotent presence with her residence at the nearby Hotel Thayer? This devotion continued even to his ultimate assignment of the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army at Fort Myer, Va. His romantic luck with girl friends was bizarre and only improved with his marriage to Jean Faircloth. She devotedly and respectfully addressed and referred to him as 'Sir, Boss.'

He had a sense of brilliance with his ability to plan, direct and execute possibly unparalleled in his overall career. Yet in the achievement of these steps he brought no measurable grief to those who dealt with him enroute. This unfortunately left him with little or none of the esteem and renown of Eisenhower and Marshall.

His complete self dedication to the Philippines was a follow along from his father who served there many years before and was instilled in him beyond all good reason. His promise to those people that he would return kept their dwindling hopes alive.

For the POW's of the Bataan Death March and the huge wholesale slaughter of others from China across the vast empire to New Guinea forgiving was a rare and difficult thing for the Japanese to admit.

The details of the chronology of the Pacific Campaigns and the Korean War are fascinatingly told with a set of clear maps for each stage of the way.

He was among personal equals and openly resented the way in which Admirals Nimitz and King, and General Marshall so often differed with him on strategy. He was a field commander whose ego was noticed and appeared unbearable amongst the highest military and civilian associates.

Even so at the remote environs of Australia his costly island hopping was finally enhanced and successful with the advent and support of the fighters and later the heavy bombers of the B-29 squadrons which was followed by the two atomic blasts which preempted a dreaded land invasion of the Japanese homeland. The ultimate surrender aboard the USS Missouri was staged unlike anything seen in recent military history.

There are some other salient points which are most enlightening. The role of the Pacific Front was assigned a second place in priority which galled its leader deeply. The higher priority given to Europe was a political one mainly and certainly correct. Even so it was damaging to his ego and delayed his long campaigns.

As to his award of the Congressional Medal of Honor it surely was not awarded in keeping with the long string of previous winners whose demonstrations of valor were never questioned as this was.

While the award in this case was apparently dubious, it was designed as a praise-worthy morale booster of the Americans and the Australians, which barely escaped occupation. He had been by passed for the Medal by General Pershing in WWII and he never forgave him for that, and subsequently Roosevelt's standards were of a lesser standard than Pershings. A final point concerns the gift of \$500,000 to MacArthur from Manuel Quezon, by the Philippine leader and his cabinet in appreciation of the help he had provided in the past and hopes for the future. In contrast General Eisenhower was offered a similar gift of only \$60,000 which he properly would not accept for a likewise service in the '30s.

One other point, which is the inexcusable delay and subsequent loss of the fleet of B-17s under General Brereton at Clark Field shortly after Pearl Harbor. What a piece of poor judgment and a disgraceful oversight it was.

In sum, it is a fine work with considerable insight dedicated to a seemingly renowned hero, who took two fatal blows. The first has been mentioned, which was the firing by Truman, albeit well deserved. The second was the misjudgment of his popularity with the Republican Party and the American people's rejection of him as presidential material. Having seen the fine Memorial in his honor in Norfolk, so handsomely done, many, including this reviewer wonder with his long love affair and allegiance to West Point why it was not the place of his final choice. A superior job, and one which deserves reading and a place in our civilian and military libraries.

Bataan Diary Is Basis For Book

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS
UNDER THE RISING SUN:
Memories of a Japanese Prisoner
of War, Mario Machi. Wolfenden,
P.O. Box 789, Mirando, Calif.,
95553-0789, 1994, 176 pp., \$12.95.

Warfare and brutality go hand in hand, but the story portrayed here of the Japanese military is one of unimagined and inhuman savagery. It may have been an aberration of the enemy's character--and it likely was. Nevertheless it was a complete disdain for prisoners they took and so shamefully mishandled, perhaps never paralleled until the cruel North Vietnamese and Chinese came along 20 years later, and gave the American public another shock of the same order as described herein.

The author is a modest, caring and industrious man. He came from a large Italian family known for their generous and sharing manners as well as for being achievers.

His associate, Harold Stephens, a substantial free lance writer, deserves much credit for his discovery of the author and the wartime diary which abruptly ended at the fall of Bataan. This served as the basis of the narrative. The invaluable diary was mailed home in 1942 to the authors by a Filipino whom he met in the Bataan march and to whom he entrusted it for safekeeping.

The author refers with endearment to his second home in Shelter Cove, Calif., up north in the Humboldt County region just below Eureka, along US 101. There he and Stephens restructured an earlier brief version entitled "The Emperors' Hostage," and thus the book evolved.

The author had just finished his third year of college in 1941 and patriotically enlisted in the Army. He was assigned to a General Hospital in Manila in its physiotherapy clinic. The news of Pearl Harbor rapidly reached him about the destruction and our declaration of war with Japan. The following day the Philippines were next on the attack list which included Clark Air Base and Cavite Navy Yards along with an infantry landing force in

the northern section of Luzon. Elements of the hospital were dispatched to assist the very critical Air Base hospital. There the continued bombing and strafing resulted in near primitive living conditions and widespread wounded and dead.

The imminent withdrawal movement came next taking them south just ahead of the Japanese advance troops. An adjacent port took many to the home of the 31st Infantry Regimental medical headquarters. There they soon began the notorious march by foot in a single file column towards Bataan. Many heavy losses were due to the weakened condition of the men as dropouts were prodded with rifle bayonets. The conditions grew worse with the deliberate mistreatment of the Japanese, plus the raging diphtheria, malaria, and dysentery with very little or no medical assistance or food for them.

The troop reaction to General MacArthur's sudden departure with his family and staff on a PT Boat was not well received. The author took a more moderate position seeing it as a presidential order to be obeyed and with no other choice. General Wainwright assumed command of the death march southward to some 50 miles and ended with the surrender of Corregidor. An estimated 10,000 were left behind dead.

Unlike the fate of many Japanese prisoners, the author remained on Luzon and was not shipped away to Japan, China or Formosa as a labor replacement. Instead he was moved north to Camp Cabanatuan where he joined many Filipino prisoners. His valuable and dedicated medical service under the most miserable weather conditions and a total lack of facilities and medicine was directed at assisting so many in a far worse condition than his own. Yet he adapted, even with a work tour on a farm he soon came back to his ward in the hospital area.

By Christmas of 1943 the tides of war had changed to favor the Allies which was welcome news to the servicemen. The American Red

Cross representatives were finally allowed entry to the camps, and with them came a deluge of Red Cross food, packages and hospital and medical supplies. The author's observation was that the hearts and the consciences of the cruel Japanese authorities were touched, and by allowing this act of good faith it might save the embarrassment of being forced to account for the thousands that they had led to death, abuse, starvation and disease.

The final and last move southward led to the infamous civilian prison called Bilbid, leaving behind some 1,800 dead at Cabanatuan.

A short time later a plan called for them to ship out to Japan, but that never took place. However another shipment to the south was made and it was enroute one day when the American planes sank it with no knowledge there were American prisoners on board. The remainder of the 250 in Bilbid were in a desperate condition, near starvation from the torture and neglect received. As the Allies came nearer the Japanese made another concession: to allow the medical officers to perform autopsies on our dead.

In a few days, the patrols, well armed and reinforced, soon entered Bilbid. The medical records were soon packed and loaded on trucks for shipment out. Then a total surprise took place with the arrival of General MacArthur and his staff to visit and make his historic statement, "I have returned." Air transports were made available and those able to fly left for Leyte and then on the USS Monterey for home. It passed through and refueled at Hollandia along the Indonesia-New Guinea border, which had been the headquarters of MacArthur. Thirteen days later the transport came into the San Francisco Harbor.

The author's family came along portside to greet him and his comrades on March 19, 1945. His military career ended with assignments at two of the California general hospitals for convalescent leave and examination, and by mid September, war in the Pacific ended.

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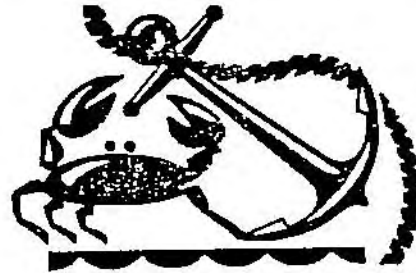
"A Reunion For Peace." They were welcomed and feted by the Philippine authorities at each place they stopped.

In conclusion, the true character of the author comes across clearly as he handled the near impossible task of assisting those in worse condition than his own. Congratulations and my best wishes to you, Mario Machi, for your continued success. To me it is a lesson in patience and determination to make it under all sorts of adversity. While at Letterman he had quite a nice surprise. Before leaving, the Army General Joe Stillwell of the China-Burma Theater personally awarded him the Bronze Star Medal. Truly an honor well deserved. After completion of his degree in education he spent years as a teacher, and a group of his friends, and survivors, persuaded him to return to Bataan. The trip was a very successful and rewarding one called after 35 years.

OFLAG 64

POW REUNION WWII

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