

BETHESDA, MD: VINCENT what a nice letter about your visit to Rosa and Pat. We appreciate the accolades re. our work with the Oflag 64 affairs and are pleased you are planning to be with us in Newport and that your daughter, Pat, will be with you. We look forward to that meeting. **VINCENT DIFRANCESCO**

SAN RAFAEL, CA: BEL and MATT your helpfulness to us has been a blessing and will always be remembered. We hope you will enjoy the story we have sent and share it with others. Looking forward to seeing you in Newport. **BEL AND MATT SMITH**

KINNELON, NJ: LOU thank you for the telephone call and sorry to learn that Elizabeth's condition is not improving. Should you make it to Newport, we look forward to spending time with you in the hospitality room and catching up on things. **LOUIS E. SALERNO**

JEFFERSON, IA: DORIS and FAMILY our members of Oflag 64 are saddened by the loss of Lew. He will be remembered by us at our Memorial Service in September at Newport. **WIFE and FAMILY of LUMOND F. WILCOX**

ROSELLE PARKS, NJ: CHARLIE thank you for your work in reconstructing the history of our group's activities in the years from 1945 to the present. Recounting those many reunions brings back many happy memories to our members. **CHARLIE EBERLE**

COLWYN, PA: HARRY and GLADYS thank you for the check to the Postage Fund. It was so good to hear from you and with so much good information. You will note that we are henceforth in correction, and if you can make it to Newport we would like to make it in person. **HARRY and GLADYS ALBERTSON**

BRADFORD, PA: MARTY thank you so much for sending to us the obituary of our friend Robert Wick. It is published in this issue of the *Item*.

MARTY WILDER, EDITOR, THE BRADFORD ERA

MEMPHIS, TN: CHARLES thank you for your check for the Postage Fund. We ask our members if they know of John Carpenter, 9th Division, captured in North Africa. Our official Oflag 64 roster shows he arrived at Schubin on June 6, 1943. If anyone can help Charles, please contact him at 3080 Walnut Grove Road #102, Memphis, TN 38111.
CHARLES R. HUGHES

ENTERPRISE, AL: HELENE and CLAYTON thank you for the check to the Postage Fund, but why no news from Enterprise? Clayton could contact Bobby Wessells, Col. USA RET, 106 Inf. Div., 2005 Shady Crest Road, Huntsville, AL 35801. See if you can talk him into coming to Newport. **HELENE and CLAYTON METCALF**

STARBUCK, MN: RAY, Bo Nunnally has promised that he and Catherine will be in Newport to see you in September.
RAY HOLMQUIST

MEMPHIS, TN: GRACE and BOB please let us know of your experience in office as editor of the *Item* that we might share with others at the reunion.
GRACE and BOB BONOMI

PHOENIX, AZ: FRANCES and CHARLES thank you for the Postage Fund check. Next time give us some Phoenix news. Please try to make the Newport reunion. **FRANCES and CHARLES MOORE**

WINNFIELD, LA: HIRAM welcome to Oflag 64 after all these years. Ray Holmquist is so happy that you will be at Newport to renew your friendship.
HIRAM WRIGHT

NEWPORT BEACH, CA: CARL thank you for the check for the Postage Fund and the very thoughtful letter in regard to the passing of Harold Carroll. With your help we have received the obituary, which is published in this issue. It is amazing to us old timers how many young adults have no knowledge of D-Day, but then they were born long after the events were portrayed in RKO Newsreels. **CARL CLAWSON**

PADUKA, KY: SAM we are assisting Clarence Meltesen on his new book *Men of Oflag 64* in identifying, clarifying and correcting some of the less known members, events and other data. Could you give us a hand re. a few members from your 9th Inf. Div.? Give it some thought and get back to us. Please try to make Newport with us.
SAM CARLICK



BOOKS

BOOKS

BOOKS

Complete the history and memories of your own experience at Oflag 64 with the printed works of fellow Kriegies. Your families and descendants will benefit from the experiences of others as these stories will support your own stories as you have related them to your families. Copies will be available in Newport for your review and purchase. The following titles are available:

The Waters Story--An Oral History as Interviewed by Col. William Pannell.
50 copies \$19.50

My Tour of Russia in the Winter of 1945
by Herb Garris and Clarence Meltesen
25 copies \$ 5.00

From Szubin (Oflag 64Z) to Wugarten
by Clarence Meltesen and Bob Levin
10 copies \$ 3.00

In the Presence of Mine Enemies
by Chaplain Eugene Daniel
40 copies \$ 8 at Newport
 \$10 if mailed

Oflag As I Saw It
by Henry Söderberg
4 copies \$ 6.00

The Men of Oflag 64
by Clarence Meltesen
75 copies \$15.00 at Newport
 \$20.00 if mailed

* * *

FAR HILLS, NJ: JOSEPH thank you for your letter and your memories of prior reunions. We are sorry that you

are unable to travel. You will be missed! The copy of the poem *Padre Brach* by David Westheimer will be published in this issue of the *Item*.

JOSEPH FREYLINGHUYSEN

THE AIR FORCE IS TO HAVE A MEMORIAL IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL: Please see the article by Herb Garris on page 6.

THE EDITOR

DAYTONA BEACH, FL:

STEPHANIE and RICHARD thank you for your book order for the Water's story. We have reviewed the original Oflag 64 roster and your name does not appear there. You are, however, in Clarence Meltesen's book *Men of Oflag 64*. It would appear that you did not arrive in Schubin, but we can clear up that mystery in Newport. **STEPHANIE and RICHARD MESKEL**

ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: FRED thank you

for your letter of March confirming a space for the Oflag 64 plaque in the commemorative courtyard of the National POW Museum. We are looking forward to the opening of the museum on April 9, 1998. **FRED BOYLES, SUPERINTENDANT**

COLUMBUS, IN: ROGER thanks for the Postage Fund check. We look forward to seeing you in Newport. **ROGER EULER**

BALTIMORE, MD: GOTTFRIED so delighted that you will be able to come to Newport and meet with us once again!
GOTTFRIED DIETZE

CHANDLER, AZ: LELA and REID thanks so much for the Postage Fund check and our most hearty congratulations on your participation in the National Senior Olympics track events at age 82. So sorry that you cannot make Newport, but we will present your idea for you. **LELA and REID ELLSWORTH**

VIDALIA, GA: BILL thank you for the article from the newspaper's travel section highlighting POW drama in Americus, Ga., Southwestern State University. Please see the summary on page 8. We are happy that you and Ellen will be in Newport.
BILL WARTHEN

BANGOR, ME: DOT we do think about you often as we old timers get together by telephone. We especially hope that you can join us in Newport.
DOT JELLISON

LEESBURG, FL: LYNNE and JACK so nice to talk to you recently. Vivian was so pleased with the manner in which you fulfilled her request. So pleased you will be with us in Newport.
LYNNE and JACK VAN VLIET

HOLLAND, PA: TOM thank you for your recent call and happy that you will be with us in Newport.
TOM MITCHELL

SANFORD, NC: INES so glad you enjoy the *Item*, but we are especially happy to learn that young Bill recently graduated from the USMC OCS and is now at Camp Lejune.
INES MAKEPEACE

WENTWORTH, MO: BOB and EVELYN we will see you in Newport and will be happy to meet Cathy and Craig. **BOB and EVELYN OSHLO**

CHEYENNE, WY: EVELYN we are so glad you are coming to Newport. Will Mary and Jim come with you?
EVELYN KORBER

BAY PINES, FL: RUSS many thanks for the fine photo of you reciting **REFLECTIONS** on stage. We regret that you cannot make it to Newport. You will be sorely missed. **RUSS FORD**

SONOMA, AZ: BONNIE thank you for the article by Niki Hale covering the interview with Harold. It will be printed in this issue of the *Item*.
BONNIE CARROLL

NEWPORT, RI REUNION ATTENDEES:

As of August 8, these are the registered guests of the 1997 Oflag 64 Reunion:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Ball, Winifred | 31. Keiser, Martin |
| 2. Barkovic, Mary Jane | 32. Kennedy, Duane |
| 3. Barrett, Joseph/Mary | 33. Klingenberg, Roy J. |
| 4. Batte, Edward/Elizabeth | 34. Korber, Evelyn |
| 5. Bradford, O.L. | 35. Lee, Royal I./Harriett |
| 6. Bryant, Arthur W. | 36. Liggett, F. Eugene/Rosalie |
| 7. Cannon, Roger/Ruby | 37. Littman, Herman/Lucy |
| 8. Chappell, Roy/Helen | 38. Lowe, Charles |
| 9. Cheatham, Robert L. | 39. Lowe, Lewis/Janet |
| 10. Christensen, Carl P./Barbara | 40. Lussenden, Donald/Lucy |
| 11. Cramer, John L./Dorothy | 41. MacArevey, James/Nan/Bob |
| 12. Creech, John | 42. Meltesen, Clarence/Helena |
| 13. Davis, James E./Betsy | 43. Meskell, Richard T./Stephanie |
| 14. DiFrancisco, Vincent/Maria | 44. Miller, Thomas E./Eleanor |
| 15. Diggs, Frank/Elizabeth | 45. Moss, Alfred H. |
| 16. Eberle, Charles G. | 46. Nunnally, Boyce/Catherine |
| 17. Euler, Roger S. | 47. O'Connor, John/Agnes |
| 18. Garris, Herbert | 48. Oshlo, Robert J./Evelyn |
| 19. Glendinning, Lorraine P. | 49. Pawloski, Theodore/Adele |
| 20. Graf, Edward A./Margaret | 50. Peeples, Rod L./Evelyn |
| 21. Graul, Donald O. | 51. Rathbone, Jack/Julie Gronfriddo |
| 22. Gray, William/Jean | 52. Roberts, Ormond |
| 23. Harrell, William/Duna | 53. Seringer, Joseph E. |
| 24. Hatch, Jerome T. | 54. Sharpe, Wilbur/Mary |
| 25. Holder, H. Randolph/Clementi | 55. Slack, John/Marjorie |
| 26. Holmquist, Ray/Bette | 56. Smith, Matthew/Bel |
| 27. Jones, Curtis/Norma | 57. Tedeschi, Ralph D. |
| 28. Juskaian, George/Louise | 58. Thompson, Robert/Gladys |
| 29. Kanaya, Jimmie | 59. Thomson, Vinton/Donna Warriner |
| 30. Kanners, Victor/Marcia | 60. VanVliet, John H./Lynne/Jackie |
| | 61. Waful, Donald R./Olga |
| | 62. Warren, Leonard/Florence |
| | 63. Warthen, William/Dorothy |
| | 64. Wright, Hiram/Betty |
| | 65. Yarock, Irving |
| | 66. THAC, SID |

1. OFLAG 64 ITEM PRINTER & MAILER
John Slack (610) 374-8224
1803 Tultehocken
Wyomissing, PA 19610
2. GUEST EDITORS
Don & Lucy Lussenden (313) 591-1739
16413 Alpine Drive
Livonia, MI 48154

3. OFLAG 64 SECRETARY-TREASURER PRO TEM
Herb Garris (910) 295-6290
P.O. Box 1693
Pinehurst, NC 28370
- Bob Levin (910) 673-1590
558 Seven Lakes North
West End, NC 27376

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.



Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Robert Springer

Springer Tells TROA Of Air Force Memorial

BY HERB GARRIS

The Sandhills Chapter of the TROA met at the Pinchurst Country Club at noon on Tuesday, July 22.

Featured speaker for the meeting was Lt. Gen. Robert D. Springer, U.S.A.F. Ret., who discussed the concept of an Air Force Memorial.

The Army, Navy and Marines are already represented with memorials in the nation's capital and it was decided that the Air Force should have one as well.

The momentum was initiated under the leadership of the U.S. Air

Force and the Air Force Sergeants Association. At the forefront was businessman Joe Coors, of Coors Brewery fame. The site selection committee was headed up by Ross Perot Jr.

A bill to establish the memorial was passed by both houses of Congress in late 1993 and signed by President Clinton. The bill provided that the funds and building permit must be secured by December 2000, that the National Park Service provide the land and that all costs were to be paid from private funds.

The memorial is to be located near the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon adjacent to Fort Myer, Va. where the earliest military flights were made. This is also close to Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon. The view to the east is of the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol on the skyline.

The design chosen was submitted by the firm Pei, Cobb and Freed. It features a five-pointed star at the center and is symbolic of the rank insignia of the enlisted Air Force personnel. This symbol also appears on the aircraft and missiles of the Air Force. A three-dimensional form will rise fifty feet in the air and will be lightly tethered to the points of the star.

Approaching from the west, you face an honor guard of larger than life figures carved of rough stone. An entrance at and below ground level will lead to an exhibit and educational center with displays of the Air Force, past, present and future.

The cost of such a project is tremendous and fund raising efforts are underway.

A Board of Trustees has developed a campaign plan and has received more than \$10 million to date from industry, foreign governments, retirees and those with Air Force connections.

It is expected that the completed memorial will cost an additional \$20 million or more. If you are interested in making a tax-exempt contribution, the address is Air Force Memorial Foundation, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va., 22209-1198.

Lt. Gen. Springer's informative talk was enjoyed by all those present.

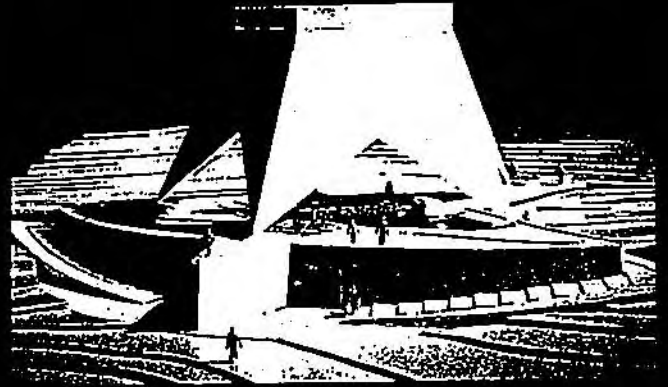
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PLACED IN AN
HISTORIC SETTING,
THE AIR FORCE
MEMORIAL WILL
PROVIDE FOR A



SPECTACULAR VIEW
OF THE NATION'S
CAPITAL.

MAKING THE DREAM A REALITY



The United States Air Force is the only branch of the armed services without a memorial in the Nation's capital. Consequently, the Air Force Memorial Foundation was formed to help make the dream of a fitting memorial a reality.

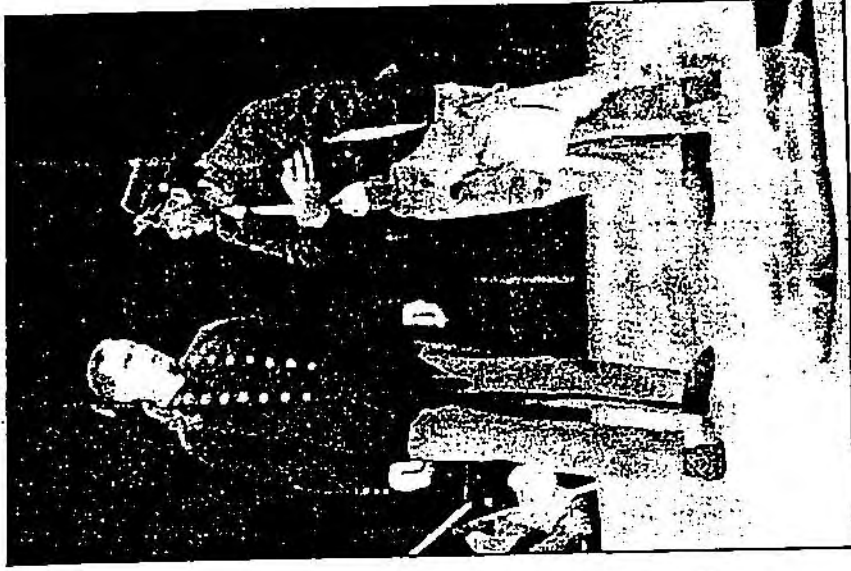
The Air Force celebrates its 50th anniversary as a separate branch of the military in 1997. It is especially appropriate that plans for an Air Force Memorial – commemorating the courage, contributions, and sacrifices of America's airmen – be a part of that celebration.

ROAD TRIP: POW drama in Americus / 140 miles

- **Amazing grace:** "And Grace Will Lead Me Home: The American POW Drama" is stirring patriotic chords in its second season in Americus. Just 10 miles away, in Andersonville, is the infamous Civil War prison camp that inspired the historical drama.
- **We shall overcome:** Featuring 35 actors and singers from around the country, the show takes theatergoers from the prison stockades of the Civil War to the stalags of Germany to the mud huts of Korea as it evokes a universal message about life, endurance, liberty and the will to survive. Spirituals from the Civil War era undergird the dramatic action.
- **Making history:** The drama was written by Tom DeTitta, author of "The Reach of Song," in its ninth season and playing in Young Harris. DeTitta developed the POW play through three years of interviews with American ex-prisoners of war as well as resources and oral histories provided by the National Park Service at the Andersonville National Historic Site.
- **Drama in real life:** An unusual aspect of the production is the appearance of two former POWs, who tell their own experiences of captivity onstage. Returning this summer is ex-POW Bill Fornes of Valdosta, who was in solitary confinement for 14 months after being shot down over Korea

- during the Korean conflict. He is joined by World War II POW Harold Thompson of Hawkinsville, who was on a spy mission behind enemy lines with 12 others from his regiment when he was taken prisoner. His story of being captured in a small seacoast town and held in a makeshift prison in German-occupied France provides another perspective on the themes of freedom and captivity.
- **Before the play:** Plan to visit Andersonville, which includes the original prison site, a Civil War cemetery and a welcome center and museum. Scheduled to open in April is the National Prisoner of War Museum, honoring POWs of all wars. Nine miles away is the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains.
- **Details:** Shows are at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 16. Fine Arts Theater, Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus. \$12 adults; \$5 children. 912-931-0001.
- **Getting there:** Take I-75 south to Exit 46 (Byron), then travel southwest on Ga. 49 to Americus. In town, go left on South Lee Street, then left on Glessner Street to the college.
- **Lodging information:** Americus-Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, 912-924-2646.

—Paula Crouch Thrasher



Georgia Southwestern State University

Ken Johnson (left) and Leonard House play Civil War soldiers in "And Grace Will Lead Me Home," continuing through Aug. 16.

PADRE BRACH

Black cassock billowing,
Cross and chain swinging,
So unlike the pale officer in army khakis
Who shared our barracks room,
He seizes me in horseplaying embrace
And whirls me around, then stops,
Unabashed
And says, "I shouldn't do this.
The Germans think priests should be dignified."
They'd let him don the cassock
When they took over from the Italians.
Later, in the boxcars,
He scolds them in German
When they don't bring us water
As he had scolded the Italians in Italian
When they needed it.
They separate us in Germany,
He to a Wehrmacht camp,
Where he refuses repatriation,
As he had in Italy,
Us to the Luftwaffe's embrace.
Years pass.
At a reunion we all wear huge plastic buttons
With his photo and our names on it.
He wears the button, too.
Underneath it says, "Me."
The Pope sends a message.
It is Padre's 50th anniversary as a priest.
Padre is in a wheel chair,
Weakened by Parkinson's.
Later I see him standing,
In smiling conversation.
He sees me staring and says, grinning,
"You think I was faking, don't you?"
He wasn't, and after a while it killed him.

If there are saints
And if there is a heaven,
St. Stanley is smiling down at us.

AN APPRECIATION

As we meet here in Newport with two heavy decisions to face: the end of Annual Reunions and the end of the *Oflag 64 Item*, some recognition follows.

As the lead of the group for five years, the time is ripe to release the responsibilities to someone else. Yet my task has become considerably easier and more enjoyable with such fine assistance.

Bob Levin has helped me in the financial area, and superbly. Carl Christensen has taken over the computer programs which he has handled efficiently and timely. Don and Lucy Lussenden with their professional editorial skills have turned out the final copies of the *Item* on time and so beautifully done. John Slack has headed the production and mailing very well. Joe Seringer has been our faithful auditor, for which we are very grateful.

To these fine people, my deep appreciation and best wishes.

HERB GARRIS

'We had nothing to do but be sitting ducks waiting for our signal ... I know that all of us were absolutely scared to death. But I had quite a number of men counting on me, so I really couldn't think of my own feelings too much'

— Harold Carroll

by Niki Hale
Staff Writer

For most Americans, young and old, visions of D-Day have come from blurry television footage and two-dimensional movie screens. The battle has an almost mythical quality, much like our visions of bloody Gettysburg hills or the wire-covered trenches of WWI.

Unlike previous battles, however, D-Day lives in the minds of hundreds of thousands of veterans to whom the battle was far from fiction.

In the last few weeks, Americans of all ages have listened, rapt, to the stories of these men. One of them came forth last week to tell his D-Day story to the *Sedona Red Rock NEWS*.

ON THE clear night of June 5, 1944, Harold Carroll stood in the doorway of a C47 cargo plane flying over the English Channel. Below him, the water was filled with boats and the air thick with gunfire.

A 23-year-old officer commanding a platoon of parachute infantrymen that all called him "H", Carroll was on his way to the skies above Normandy.

"Leaving the white cliffs of Dover and going out across the channel, it was beautiful in a way. I spent much of my time standing in the door looking into the channel," said Carroll.

"From the air it looked like you could walk across the channel from one boat to the other."

Parachutes and gear in place, he and his men waited in the door for their signal to jump.

"IT WAS very dark and very wild, confusing, erratic. There was flak and ack-ack and flares and the sky was absolutely full with shells from Germans trying to shoot our planes down," he said.

"We had nothing to do but be sitting ducks waiting for our signal ... I know that all of us were absolutely scared to death. But I had



quite a number of men counting on me, so I really couldn't think of my own feelings too much."

After he jumped, Carroll didn't have much time to think about his or anybody else's feelings. He got separated from most of his men and landed far from his designated drop zone, in an area full of German troops.

"From then on, it was pretty much like ... the Peter Jennings report of the landings. It was mass confusion and organized chaos," he said.

His original mission was to provide perimeter defense for a battalion crossing a small river. Separated from his platoon, he organized other Allied stragglers to try to carry out his orders.

"I gathered men from the British, the 101st, the 82nd airborne and Free French; in the middle of the night, dark as pitch, signalling with our crickets ... I managed to get a pretty good force under my command," he said.

AFTER THREE days of fighting, his force was overrun by the Germans and he was taken prisoner. He soon escaped with a friend, "a fine man" named Claussen, but found it hard to reach Allied forces.

"It was very early in the invasion and there were no lines set up, no rear echelon, no place to go. So ultimately we were recaptured and then transported on down to Rennes, which was the first major prison camp that I ever saw," said Carroll.

It wasn't the last. The two friends were transported from Rennes to Germany and eventually to Oflag 64 in Poland. When Carroll got there, he was immediately hospitalized for festering battle wounds that had

been left untended.

In January 1945, after being held prisoner for six months, he and his friend escaped again, this time through Poland into Russia, and eventually back to American forces.

"It's getting faint in my memory now, but there are some things you never forget. The day I saw Warsaw, it wasn't exactly one of the tourist traps in Europe. It was practically level.

"I was in front of a firing squad a couple of times, escaped from the Germans a couple of times ... gas chambers, Warsaw, Russia ... It was not exactly the Cook's tour," he said.

"THERE ARE a jillion stories. I have recently quite smoking and drinking, becoming quite pure these days. In the old days, I would get in my cups and tell stories."

Instead of horror stories, he chose to tell about the time that he and his friend stopped at a Polish farm house with a Russian soldier.

"We're standing around the kitchen, and the Russian was kidding with the two little girls, and looking at us, tease the girls and look at us. Then I asked one of the girls if she spoke English.

"She did. That little old kid in her school in Poland had been taking English for two or three years. I think I was the first English-speaking person she had spoken with in her life," Carroll said.

One of the sadder stories he has to tell about D-Day involves his older brother, whose death at a crossroad derailed his company's mission. Harold still thinks about his brother, who pushed him into being an officer so that the two could go to the officer's club together.

"I MISS he old boy. He and I were very close," said Carroll.

In the 50 years since he stood in the flak and "ack-ack" above the channel, "H" Carroll has graduated from college, served in the Korean war, raised four daughters and survived his first wife by more than 21 years. He later remarried and eventually retired to Sedona in 1983.

"I really haven't done much since then. I've gotten kind of lazy. I'm not an old man. I'm playing as much golf as possible and enjoying life," he said.

Lazy or not, the D-Day veteran can rest assured in the knowledge that his story has made the battle real, at least for one listener

SEDONA LIFE



"H" CARROLL (above photo, second from right) and members of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment pose for a photo in England, a few days before the D-Day invasion. With a fellow infantryman, Carroll (photo bottom right, at left) surveys equipment at their base in southern England. In his Sedona Shadows home (bot-

tom photo), the veteran displays an oil painting he took from a Polish mansion while escaping from German forces. He carried the painting with him through Russia and the Middle East to Naples, where he eventually reunited with U.S. forces.

D-Day lives in memories of veteran



Harold James Carroll

Harold James Carroll, 76, of Sedona, died Feb. 15.

Born in Sheridan, Wyo., Mr. Carroll had been an administrator at a university before he retired.

Mr. Carroll was a veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Elks, of the Masonic Blue Lodge White Shrine of Jerusalem at Fort Collins, and of the Mystic Shrine.

Mr. Carroll is survived by his wife, Bonnie; five daughters, Patricia Cleveland of Hawaii, Cathleen Cady and Maureen, both of Kansas, Cynthia Foxworthy of Arizona and Peggy Patrick of Washington; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Hepler Funeral Home in Camp Verde handled arrangements for a private service. A memorial service took place Feb. 20 at the B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge 2291 at Sedona.

The Des Moines Register
Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Lumund F. Wilcox, 86, of Jefferson died of a heart attack Saturday at Greene County Medical Center.



Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at First United Methodist Church in Jefferson, of which he was a member. Cremation and burial of the remains will take

place later.

Mr. Wilcox was born in Havelock and had lived in Jefferson all his life, retiring as an attorney after 54 years. He was a World War II Army veteran and a member of American Legion and Jefferson Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife, Doris; a daughter, Susan Richardson of Jefferson; a son, Thomas of San Diego; a sister, Agnes Candish of Ames; and three grandchildren.

Friends may call after 9 a.m. today at Slinger-Rossow Funeral Home in Jefferson, where the family will be present from 7 to 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Building a Center To Our Community Rec. Center Fund or First United Methodist Church Building Fund.

The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Robert Wick, local attorney, decorated WWII vet, dies at 80

Robert Harry Wick, 80, of 81 Main St. died Tuesday morning in Bradford Regional Medical Center.

Born May 29, 1916, in Bradford, he was a son of Harry Moore and Gail Valentine Smith Wick.



Mr. Wick attended Bradford schools and graduated from Culver Military Academy in 1934. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Lafayette College in 1938, where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon. He was also a 1941 graduate of Temple University, where he received his law degree.

Mr. Wick was married to Harriet Blaisdell Wick, who survives.

On Feb. 7, 1942, he enlisted with the U.S. Army and served in the European and African theaters. During the North African invasion, he was taken prisoner by the Germans and spent two years as a prisoner of war in Poland. He was honorably discharged Feb. 5, 1946, as a captain.

He also served with the U.S. Army Reserve until April 1, 1953.

Mr. Wick received two Purple Hearts, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with two bronze stars and one arrowhead, the Silver Star, Croix De Guerre with palm and Combat Infantry Badge.

On July 18, 1942, he was admitted to practice in McKean County by the honorable Charles C. Hubbard, presiding. Also in 1942, he was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar. Mr. Wick began practicing law in Bradford on April 15, 1946, when he became associated with Daniel W. Daly.

In October 1958, the law firm of Wick and Daly merged with the firm of McDowell and McDowell into the practice of McDowell, McDowell, Wick & Daly, now known as McDowell, Wick, Daly, Gallup, Hauser and Hartle, of which he was a senior member.

On June 23, 1965, he was admitted to the federal district court. On May 13, 1994, he was presented a certificate in recognition of 50 years of practice by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the McKean County Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Bradford Club.

He was a former member of the Pennhills Club and a past member of the board of directors at the Pennhills Club and a past member of the board of directors at the YMCA from 1964 to 1973.

He was executive secretary from 1940 to 1991 of the Philo and Sarah Blaisdell Foundation. He was also a charter member of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Advisory Board when it was formed in 1963.

Surviving are a son, D. Blaise Wick of Bradford; a daughter, Barbara Wick Kearney of Bradford; five grandchildren, Michael Quinn Wick, Brett Barcroft Madden, Lainie McMillian Wick, Hagen Blaisdell Kearney and Harry Wick Kearney; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister.

There will be no public visitation. Friends are invited to attend funeral services at 11 a.m. Thursday in the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. W. LeRoy Beckes, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Willow Dale Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Hollenbeck-Cahill Funeral Homes Inc.

PREFACE
to
The Men of Oflag 64

The story is a thoughtful directory which compels our attention as participants. We were a group, dividing into sub groups on roads to liberation. The story is intriguing. What caught my interest is that within that story, with four lines, there is the beginning of a story of each of us.

As a collaborator in both research and writing I found a noticeable readiness to talk of events and people we knew so many years ago. I was fascinated at times and received an education.

In Appendix Three I managed to up date a list of the various reunions held over the last fifty years. At our Reunion we should pay some tribute to the contributions of these former hosts for their generous donations of time and their dedicated attention to arrangements.

We were an assorted collection of officers and enlisted men. Proudly loyal to one another and the many others who had their character and endurance tested by the Germans. For while celebrating this reunion we must pause for those who died inside the wire and for those who are now departed from our midst. We salute them at our last reunion.

Pinehurst, NC
22 July 1997

Herbert L. Garris
Lt Col USA Ret

AUTHOR'S PREFACE
to
The Men of Oflag 64

This is a nominal list of the men of Oflag 64, Schubin and Oflag 64Z, Schokken in Poland. It starts with the first United States ground forces officers held as prisoners of war at Schubin from 1943 until the evacuation of the Oflag on 21 January 1945. It is assembled from a gathering of available records that are acknowledged at the end. It evolved along a parallel as I wrote, Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64 in a first edition of 1987 and a second (more complete) edition in 1990. That work is in the form of a participatory memoir and is ongoing so long as fresh material is produced by our men, self styled kriegys, from the German kriegsgefangenen.

The German camp records do not include some arrivals at Oflag 64 from about 10 January. The German clerk had gone off to the approaching East Front. The Oflag 64Z men were never rostered by the Germans albeit being captured in the Bulge. At Odessa they were mixed with an equal number of USAAF personnel who had been downed in Yugoslavia, rescued, and then repatriated by Marshal Tito.

In addition there are some French, Canadian, Polish, and British personnel who had been duly rostered in the camp and marched out with us on 21 January 1945. Our Lt Col Schaefer had been sent to Colditz, pending the review of his death sentence by a German court-martial. He was liberated by British troops in 1945. The Germans had also kept Lt Winant, the son of our Ambassador to England, at Colditz. He was moved south with other "prominenten" hostages in April 1945 and was liberated on the road during the last battle.

My typing and editing is probably 99% accurate. No doubt the printers devil has been at work as I shuffled rosters and records. Pages of records are blurred or worse. Major Exon is a story. I have talked to men who knew him, but the facts like serial number and unit are unknown. There were at least two men in camp who were never written into the German Roster. However, they were reported by the Germans to the Swiss Prisoner of War Information Bureau. This did not bother the German camp administration since they dealt in the gate strength of intakes, with the numbers being counted twice a day. As for Alex Bloom and Takeichi Myashiro, their

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records were still at Stalag XIIA, Limburg and the Bad Soden Hospital Complex. In fact an officer in their group had scarlet fever and none were officially registered. Myashiro and other sick personnel did not march on 21 January.

This book works well as a companion piece to Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64. It complements the description of forced marches in winter conditions with the people involved. There were three main groups. The marching group to Parchim and Hammelburg. The march casualty groups sent in to Stalag IIIA, Luckenwalde, Germany. The camp sick group and escapees who were repatriated at Odessa, Ukraine. The groups were essentially equal in numbers.

Appendix One indicates the "who" of grade distribution (in camp and on the road) of the officers and enlisted men. Appendix Two is a random sample study of the "when and where" our men were captured in the theaters of operation of the war years. There is enough information to draw inferences, but insufficient information for definitive analysis.

I began these studies of Oflag 64 to satisfy my curiosity on the "when and where" I marched in the winter of 1945. In 1987 the burning question was, "did we all come home?" I now broadened my views and found that I was accumulating a fair swarm of memoirs and such. Going to the Military Archives in Washington led to more study of the capture and treatment of POWs by the Germans: in the forward areas, on their recapture of escapees, and of our enlisted men on their work details. A reader can see connections in all this and a kriegy can fit himself into the picture.

There is no call for review or revision of our code of conduct. Soldiers are captured in combat, in fact capture is an important feature of intelligence operations. They are bound to give their name, rank, and serial number. As much as possible further information is not given. Hopefully the Geneva Conventions will be reviewed so that in future combat we can equalize the level of treatment given on both sides. Short of that arrangement, we can only plan rational ad hoc systems on a quid pro quo basis as hostile combat becomes a certainty. Sort of a better late than never situation.

San Francisco
22 July 1997

Clarence R Meltesen
Lt Col USA

A MEMORY

We were men at Oflag 64, soldiers confined in a system designed to destroy morale, living with the fear of hunger and starvation, and determined to survive with honor to the end. This is true for all men held in the stalags, dulags, marlags and oflags operated by the Germans. It is true for the most fearsome and demeaning of journeys in crowded boxcars. It is true for the thousands who marched under the African sun without water and the Baltic winter without proper clothing.

The physical condition and health of our men was exploited for labor not sanctioned by the Geneva Conventions. Weakening physical condition raised no compassion. If anything is true, the last months of the war increased the ferocity of compelling labor and sternness in punishment. We learned in January 1945 that we were hostage to Hitler's frenzies and only partially protected by the Wehrmacht from a final solution.

Liberation did not come a day too soon.

In The Presence of Mine Enemies

An American Chaplain in World War II German Prison Camps

CHAPLAIN (MAJOR) EUGENE L. DANIEL, JR. (AUS-RETIRED)

Editorial Advisors

Dr. George Sweet Gibb

Former Historian and Former Editor, *Business History Review*
and

Hilma Holton Gibb

Former Associate Editor, Division of Research
Graduate School of Business Administration
Harvard University

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Foreword

In February of 1943 an American force was defeated by the Germans at Faid Pass, prelude to the catastrophe at Kasserine Pass in North Africa. Chaplain Eugene L. Daniel, Jr., was a member of that force. Instead of seeking safety for himself, which he could easily have found, he chose to stay behind with the wounded, most of them Germans, who would almost certainly have died of heat, thirst, or wild animals had they been left to themselves. It is only at the urging of some among us who knew the real story, that he has finally made these facts available to the Church and to the public.

As a consequence of his decision, Gene Daniel spent over two years in German prison camps. His became a truly ecumenical service, as he ministered to thousands of his fellow prisoners. Witness to this fact is borne by the Communion set which was furnished him by the Ecumenical Commission for Chaplaincy Service to Prisoners of War for use in conducting services in the prison camps. This set is now one of the most prized possessions of Columbia Theological Seminary.

Chaplain Daniel's conduct from its beginning was also noted with admiration and appreciation by a number of his captors. He was a man whose unswerving religious faith, in spite of his own weakened condition, kept many men going through the so-called, "March of Death," toward the end of hostilities. His faith and actions at that time are eloquently described in Kenneth W. Simmon's book, *Kriegie*.

Chaplain Daniel has been a "peacemaker" in other ways, after the war. In 1946-1947 he served as Special Representative for the War Relief Committee of his denomination, speaking and raising funds for the relief of war victims in Europe and Asia. He and his wife were missionaries in Korea until forced home by the Korean War. Then, from 1951 to 1964, he served as Candidate Secretary for the Board of World Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. His last assignment before retirement was Associate Minister of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

His country rightly recognized the outstanding service of Chaplain Daniel by awarding him its Silver Star Medal and later its Distinguished Service Cross. His supreme accolade, however, comes from a higher

source: "Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God." For this reason, it is appropriate that, even at this late date, the story of his prisoner-of-war career be told.

The Reverend J. McDowell Richards, D.D., L.L.D.
 President Emeritus
 Columbia Theological Seminary
 Former Moderator,
 The Presbyterian Church in the United States

Preface

Several years ago I started out to write a small private book about my experiences as a German prisoner-of-war for our children and grandchildren. I wanted them to have an accurate account of what happened. I typed from memory with little or no reference to source materials. When members of our family and friends read the first draft, they urged me to enlarge it somewhat and make it available for any who might want to read it.

When I started rewriting and tried to research some of the characters and to verify some of the incidents, I found it difficult to locate accurate sources. More than 35 years had passed. Many who would have known the facts were dead. Therefore it is likely that there are some errors, despite a considerable effort to be accurate. The story is essentially correct.

My main help in understanding the campaign in North Africa, where I was captured, came from *U.S. Army in World War II, Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, Northwest Africa: Seizing the Initiative in the West*, by George F. Howe. Further help came from reading Martin Blumenson's *Kasserine Pass*. I am also indebted to many other writers of books and articles which I have read through the years. A number of friends have helped me with typing, spelling, grammar, and suggestions about wording. They already know how much I appreciate their help. John E. Welles, James E. Hill, Robert Welsh, and R. W. Kimball were most cooperative in extending permission to use illustrative material, as were Mr. Wes Henry and Mrs. Ruth Hurr of the United States Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in supplying an original photograph of the Sagan funeral cortege. I also wish to thank Mrs. Delmar T. Spivey for her gracious permission to consult and to use material in the Spivey Collection. Finally, it would not have been possible to publish this book without the initiative and editorial assistance of George and Hilma Gibb.

I started out to inform and, hopefully, to interest readers of this book, but those who know me would not expect me to finish it without a little bit of sermonizing.

Charlotte, North Carolina, 1985

Eugene L. Daniel, Jr.