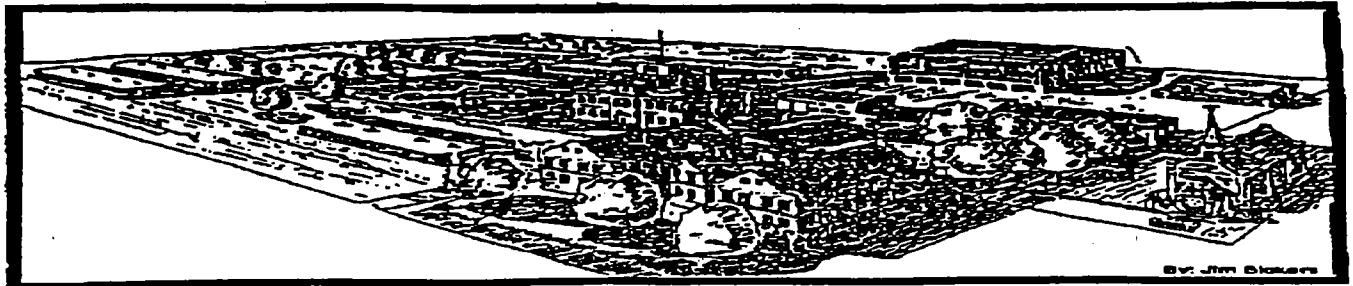


Post Oflag 64 Item

Volume 1 Issue XXXVII

March 1998



LAS VEGAS REUNION

Alan Dunbar has a report on the reunion later in the *Item*, but we did want to call to everyone's attention here that he would like to have as many early registrations as possible. He is having to put up front money on the things that the hotel is reserving for us. If you send in your money now and later find that you cannot attend, he will refund your money. If you have any questions about the reunion, please contact: Alan Dunbar, 4675 Green Canyon Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89103-4386, Phone: 702-871-5046

ANDERSONVILLE POW MUSEUM

Details about this dedication are also included later in this *Item*, but we wanted to call your attention to the fact that Bill Warthen and Boomer Holder have offered their services as coordinators for anyone else that is going. If you are going and would like to contact others who will be there, call or write:

H. Randolph (Boomer Holder)
383 Westview Drive
Athens, GA 30606-4635
Phone: 706-549-3337

Bill Warthen
P. O. Box L
Vidalia, GA 30474
Phone: 912-537-4430

New Editor

Bob Thompson
7448 E. 68th Place,
Tulsa, OK 74133
Phone: 918-250-0897
Fax: 918-488-8679
Email: THO7448@aol.com

Guest Editors

Irving Yarock
51 Barclay St.
Worcester, MA 01604

Pat Bender
7039 McCallum St.
Philadelphia, PA 19191

Bret Job
3322 Washburn Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Treasurer

Joe Seringer
1930 Edwards
Wooster, OH 44691

Mailing List

Carl Christensen
9 Pine Ridge Dr.
Whispering Pines, NC 28327

1998 Reunion Chairman

Alan Dunbar
4675 Green Canyon Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89103-4386

REUNION INFORMATION

Alan Dunbar furnished the following information on the Reunion at Las Vegas this fall. Alan was required by the hotel to furnish a deposit of \$1000 to reserve the hotel facilities. The \$1000 was supplied by the Oflag 64 Treasurer and Alan asks everyone who plans to attend to please send in their registration early (\$90/person) so that he can reimburse the Treasury. Please send your advances to Alan Dunbar, 4675 Green Canyon Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89103-4386. If you have any questions, please call him at 702-871-5046.

Reservations for the Rio Hotel Suite and Casino should be made prior to August 15, 1998 by calling the Reservations Department at 1-888-746-7482.

When making reservations, you must advise the hotel that you are with the Oflag 64 Group and Reunion in order to receive the group rate of \$75.00 for the mini-suite. A first night deposit must be sent prior to arrival. It is advised to get a confirmation number.

Requests received after August 15, 1998 will be taken on a space available basis. The hotel accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club and Carte Blanche.

The Rio Hotel Suite and Casino address is I-15 and Flamingo, P. O. Box 14160, Las Vegas, NV 89114.

The mini-bus has the best rate from the airport to the hotel.

REUNION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, Sept 14	Early Arrivals
Tuesday, Sept. 15	Arrival Date Open Time (Subject to Change)
Wednesday, Sept. 16	11AM – 2PM, Luncheon, Brasilia Room Buses to and from the Stratosphere Tower Admission to the Tower Dinner on your own
Thursday, Sept. 17	9AM, Business Meeting & Continental Breakfast Flamengo Room (Wives invited) 6:30PM, Open Bar, Dinner, Dancing, Door Prizes Brasilia Room
Friday, Sept. 18	9AM to 12 Noon, Breakfast Brunch Memorial Service, Brasilia Room

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE CONDITION OF OUR MEMBERS, PLEASE SEND IT TO THE EDITOR IN TULSA

Sick Call

Roy Chapelle reports - Albert Cecil had 8-by-passes in mid-December '97 and seems to be doing fine now.

John Slack had a serious auto accident last December and was laid up in the hospital for some time. He is home now and is reported to be recovering nicely.

Herb's partner, Ethelene, is still on the road to recovery after her difficult days last fall and early winter.

Bob Aschim had a severe throat problem.

Taps

Roy Chapelle reports- *Fritz Mueller died Nov. 16, 1997 at Corpus Christi. He arrived at Oflag 64 on Dec. 30, 1944 and was quarantined in the old Russian Barracks and stayed behind with the hospital group and came through Odessa.

John Goode, Shreveport, died last fall. John arrived at Oflag 64 on Dec. 3, 1944. He stayed in the Russian Barracks until the evacuation of Oflag 64. He made the march to Parchim, was involved in the raid on Hammelburg and came from home through Camp Lucky Strike.

Clifford Hicks, Green Valley, AR, passed away December 19, 1997. Cliff was in the 36th Division Combat Engineers and was captured in late Sept. 1944 in the crossing of the Moselle River near Remiermont, France. He was severely wounded in the back with German MG fire. The Sgt. with him was killed. He came through Strasbourg, Limberg and made the miserable trip to Oflag 64 on a prison train. He remained behind in Jan. 1945 when the camp was evacuated and came home through Russia.

In Memory of
Blondell T. Fenton
Capt. USAR
September 21, 1910
January 18, 1998

Footsteps
God sees when the footsteps
All falter,
When the pathway has grown
Too steep.
Then He touches the weary eyelids
And gives His dear ones sleep.

Burial Trenton, NJ

These were our friends and we will miss them

PUBLICATIONS

Available Publications

<i>The Waters Story</i>	\$19.50
<i>My Tour of Russia</i>	\$ 5.00
<i>The Men of Oflag 64</i>	\$20.00
<i>The Oflag Directory</i>	\$ 3.00
<i>Oflag 64 Audio Tape**</i>	\$ 5.00

** In June 1944, Henry Soderberg made an audio cassette tape of several of our POW's at Oflag 64. A few copies of this tape are available. This tape was played at the Air Force Academy by Henry when we were there several years ago.

Send requests for the above books, booklets, pamphlets, etc. to:

Herb Garris
P. O. Box 1693
Pinehurst, NC 28370

Make checks for the above books to:
Oflag 64 Postage Fund

Additional Publications:

In The Presence of Mine Enemies \$10.00

Send requests for the above book to:

Mrs. Rose Daniel
5100 Sharon Road, Apt. 603
Charlotte, NC 28210-4720

Make checks for this book only to: Rose Daniel

DONOR APPRECIATION

We wish to thank each of the following members for their contribution to the Postage Fund:

John Miller
Robert Cheatham
Vincent White
Carl Christensen
John Sutherland
O. L. Brad Bradford
George Muehlbauer
Nathaniel Hoskot
Caroll Higginbotham
John Creech
Jane Graffagnino
Matthew Smith
Charles Moore
Garland Vaughn
Raymond Hughes
Charles Eberle
Jim Sherman
Marvin Chevalier
Jerome Alexis
Joseph Frelinghuysen
Hugh Hogan
Leonard Feldman

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Kathy Secor, daughter of Lt. John Secor, is requesting information about her father, who was with us at Oflag 64 in 1944 and 1945. His name appears in the roster that was maintained at Oflag 64.

More detailed information is:

Name:	John B. Secor
Rank:	2 nd Lt.
ASN:	0-1318251
POW#:	88875-X11/A
Place/Date Captured:	Moselle River, 9-11-44
Date of Arrival @ Oflag 64	10-16-44
Returned home from:	???

If you have any information on Lt. Secor, please contact:

Kathy Secor
223 Homer Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

MAIL CALL

IRVING YAROCK writes: The report of my demise is slightly exaggerated. If you have the 1997 copy of "The Men of Oflag 64" in the bright red binder, you see that Irv Yarock is listed as "deceased". I'm not, and am writing this note to prove it. Same with **SID THAL** - he's alive, rarin' to go and has volunteered to host our 1999 reunion in Florida.

For those of you who missed it, the 1998 reunion will be at Las Vegas 15-18 September.

CLARENCE MELTESON of San Francisco, CA, writes that he has a bad knee which impedes his hopping on and off the trolley cars. Guess he'll have to pay full fare now.

CHRIS & GLORIA HEISLER write with holiday wishes and thanks to those who helped them out at the 1997 reunion in Newport, RI. Our thanks to them for a great job.

The **LARCHEVEQUES** send their holiday greetings from La Crescenta, CA.

CHARLEY JONES of Northwood, IA, sent in a two-page "ghost party" story in which he highlighted and re-played all the theatrical performances at Oflag 64.

LORRAINE GLEDENNING of 28 Huron Road, Bellerose Village, NY 11001-4007 (John's wife) is asking for pictures taken at breakfast. She comments on how good Henry looked, so we assume it was a breakfast at Newport. Can anyone help? Contact her directly. Thanks for the donation to the postage fund.

TONY CIPRIANI of Wellsburg, WV, writes not believing Newport would be our last, and he was right. See you in Las Vegas.

The **DIFRANCESCOS** of Bethesda, MD, write to say how much they enjoyed being with the gang at Newport even though they couldn't fully participate.

The **TOM & SUE LAWSONS** of Grand Junction, CO, have kept up a prolific correspondence and exchange of pictures containing the flora of their property with **HERB GARRIS'** property. They truly enjoyed our time at Newport and are looking forward to **AL DUNBAR'S** Las Vegas.

ORMOND ROBERTS of Worcester, MA, has finally emerged from his cocoon. Ormond has a strong aversion to flying, so Newport was his first reunion. In fact, Ormond and Irv Yarock traveled together. However, he does have some relatives in the Midwest so maybe he can plan on a long swing to include Las Vegas. Many thanks for the generous postage fund check.

Nice letter from **KERMIT HANSEN** who shuttles between Elkhorn, NE, and Estes Park, CO. Kermit is plagued by some scoliosis but still manages some 25,000 miles travel in his financial consulting business. He was off on a detail when his unit, the 168th, was surrounded, but was caught a few years later near the Moselle River and rejoined his unit at Oflag 64.

TOM MITCHELL of Southampton, PA, sent a kind of lengthy account of an argument between a rabbi and the Pope in which, of course, they both came out winners. Sort of reminds us of the endless arguments between **Len Feldman** and **Paul Carnes**. They were the best of friends, in fact Len was Godfather to Paul's children. Paul became president of the Unitarian Church but died of cancer several years ago.

BILL WARTHEN of Videlia, GA, writes an interesting letter. It seems he has a son in Amherst, MA, who reads the Boston paper and came up with an interesting article that will be of particular interest to our kriegies who were in the 28th Division. (Note from Irv Yarock - there is a fellow named **O'QUINN** in Hawaii, not Jewish, who was selected for his thesis towards an advanced degree the treatment of Jewish prisoners of war. He went to Italy to track down some stories there, and now has the names of many people involved in the article from the Boston paper and is going to Germany to investigate. He already has the name of an SS Colonel who was involved not only in this but in shooting 20 101st paratroopers a few days after the invasion.) **BILL WARTHEN** has been corresponding with **O'QUINN**.

JENNY MOHER of Alexandria, VA, writes that she is sorry she and Jerry missed the reunion but had an overseas trip planned for over a year. Jerry had a stroke 8 years ago which, along with arthritis, has him somewhat handicapped. But he gets around. Maybe Las Vegas? Also sent a contribution to the postage fund.

STAN SEGAL of Bakersfield, CA, dropped a note and also a check for the postage fund.

JENNY MOHER of Alexandria, VA, writes complimenting **HERB GARRIS** on the item. Jerry's stroke affected his right hand and a war wound did a job on his left hand. I think my doctor took handwriting lessons from him.

TOM GRAFFAGNINE of P. O. Box 387, Hamilton, GA 31811, is someone neither **Bob Thompson** nor I (Irv) know, but we have to assume there is a relationship between him and **Dr. Graff**, and also have to assume he has met some of our people. He has designed some religious postcards and, if anyone is interested, contact him directly. Incidentally, I spoke to **Jane** and tried to talk her into coming to Newport, but she was coming up here to Leominster, MA, for a high school reunion within a few weeks of ours, and she did not feel up to it.

BRAD BRADFORD, Grove City, Ohio says he put on a display at the local library and it went over great. **BOB BONOMI** contributed some things also.

VIC WHITE, Arlington, Texas writes that he has been corresponding with **LEN WARREN** of Consakie, NY about their escapades in Italy. Italy was a tough place to be during the war.

DON AND CASSIE WAFUL write about the parties that Cassie attended on her birthday. Even had some on Cape Cod. I knew that Cassie was a nurse and I think she attended some of the soldiers in the 36th Division. Hope to see you in Las Vegas.

NAT HOSKOTT offers his appreciation for the continuation of the Item. Glad you enjoy it. We also have enjoyed it over the years.

JOHN AND ELAINE CREECH offer their appreciation for the Item and their offer of assistance is most welcome.

MAT SMITH, San Rafael, Ca. writes that El Nino is dealing them a lot of misery. You folks got the bad weather and we in the southwest have enjoyed our best winter in years. We would share it with you if we could. Hunker down and stay dry!

BOB CHEATHAM, Asheboro, NC. expresses his appreciation for continuing the Item. We are pleased that so many of you enjoy the Item.

RAY HUGHES, Memphis offers an expression of good luck. Ray, I think I have met your friend, **CHARLES WARD** here in Tulsa. Wasn't he an architect?

MARV CHEVALIER, Iowa City checks in. Give our regards to **FAYE**, hope to see you in Las Vegas. Note from **BOB THOMPSON**- The Iowa Hawkeyes are great wrestlers, and when they wrestle the Okla State Cowboys it is an event.

JIM SHERMAN, Oakland checks in and says he will be in Las Vegas with **JEFF**. We are always glad to see these two gentlemen.

JERRY ALEXIS, Pittsburgh, checks in with several articles and photos.. Thank you for your articles and contribution and hope you can come to Las Vegas.

CHARLES MOORE, Paratrooper from Phoenix . We sure do remember you from our last reunion in Las Vegas. Sorry to hear about Frances, and I know you will be happy, as she will, to be out of that " assisted care center".

Gladys and I both remember what a pleasant visit we had with you and Frances while dining at the Hilton.

CHARLIE EBERLE, Roselle Park, NJ. How nice to hear from you. You remarked about **EMMA** while we were in Newport. We were sad to hear it then and even sadder now. Hang in there. good friend.

TEXAS checked in in the form of **ROY AND HELEN CHAPELL** Always glad to hear from the State of Texas especially our good friends from Kaufman. I think you had more company over Christmas than we did. We only had 16 and I heard you had 30. (This note from Bob Thompson-Tulsa)



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Andersonville National Historic Site
Route 1, Box 800
Andersonville, Georgia 31711
(912) 924-0343

IN REPLY REFER TO

A8215 (ANDE)

February 10, 1998

Mr. Bob Thompson
7448 East 68th Place
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

Dear Mr. Thompson:

As you are aware the National Prisoner of War Museum is scheduled to open on April 9, 1998 at 10:30 am. The dedication program is expected to draw a very large crowd.

Currently, our plans are to hold the small plaque unveilings in the Commemorate Courtyard on the afternoon on April 9th. The schedule is as follows:

Oflag 64	2:00 pm
Battling Bastards of Bataan	2:30 pm
Vermont	3:00 pm

The unveiling programs should last approximately 15 minutes. This will allow for some members of the appropriate group make some remarks. Please take the liberty to organize your group at the noted time. I will represent the National Park Service in any part of your program.

This will be a very busy day for the park. On that morning, we are expecting 3 to 5,000 visitors. We expect the crowd to be smaller in the afternoon but still much larger than our average daily attendance.

If you need to ask me any questions about the above, please call me at 912-924-0343, extension 17. Your support of Andersonville and the development of the National Prisoner of War Museum is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Fred Boyles
Superintendent

NATIONAL PRISONER OF WAR MUSEUM
ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GRAND OPENING EVENTS

January 21, 1996

Fact Sheet:

The National Prisoner of War Museum will open on April 9, 1996 which is Former Recognition Day and the anniversary of the Fall of Bataan.

A Partnership Reception is planned for April 8th from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. The reception is given in honor and appreciation to all former prisoners of war, donors and supporters for their contributions to the museum. Throughout the evening there will be a schedule of events that include the unveiling of the bronze sculpture and the brick wall in the Commemorative Courtyard. Entertainment will be provided.

On April 9th, beginning at 10:00 a.m., the Marine Corps Band from Albany, Georgia will play a thirty minute musical concert and the official ceremony will commence at 10:30 a.m. with guest speaker, Senator John McCain, (Rep. Arizona and former POW). The program will end with a ribbon cutting at approximately noon.

Other dignitaries on the program will be Governor of Georgia, Zell Miller, United States Congressman Sanford Bishop (2nd District, GA), United States Senator Paul Coverdell, Director of the National Park Service, Robert G. Stanton, John Romine, Chaplain for American Ex-Prisoners of War, Wayne Hitchcock, National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War and Robert Phillips, Chaplain, American Defenders of Bataan and Corrigidor.

Due to the large crowd anticipated, parking will be off site. A shuttle will be provided between the parking area and the location of the events.

Andersonville is the site of Camp Sumter, the largest prisoner of war camp in the Civil War. In its 14 months of operation 45,000 union soldiers were held there, of which 12,914 died and are buried in the National Cemetery. The cemetery is the only active National Cemetery in Georgia and still buries approximately 160 veterans and their spouses per year.

Andersonville National Historic Site was designated as a memorial to all POWs in American history by Congress in 1970. The site is operated by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

GRAND OPENING
of the
National Prisoner of War Museum
at
ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

APRIL 9, 1998

This long awaited event is finally scheduled. The Planning Committee has met four times to arrange a program, speakers and events. Every member of American Ex-Prisoners of War is invited and welcome. To help the Committee, composed of National Park Service, American Ex-POW, Friends of Andersonville, and the two local Chambers of Commerce plan our events, would you be so kind as to indicate your plans to attend by completing the form below and sending it to:

Andersonville Coordinator
606 W. Park Ave., Valdosta, GA 31602-2805.

This is for our planning only...you must make your own plans and reservations.

EX-POW AND SPOUSE

GUESTS

DATE OF ARRIVAL

DATE OF DEPARTURE

Donna Dobberfuhr began courtyard work on November 17, 1997. This courtyard artwork, paid for by the AXPOW Andersonville Fund, is expected to be unveiled on April 8th. For your convenience, a listing of the surrounding motels is provided on page 46. Most rates are reasonable and most accept senior citizens' discounts. Please do not delay to make your motel reservations. This is a once-in-a-lifetime occasion.



AVAILABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:

AMERICUS (10 miles south of ANHS, GA; Rt. 49 to ANHS)

Days Inn	912-924-3613	1-800-329-7466
Holiday Inn Express	912-928-5400	1-800-465-4329
Jamison Inn	912-924-2726	1-800-541-3268
Ramada Inn	912-924-4431	1-800-932-4430
Windsor Hotel	912-924-1555	Barbara Taylor
8 Inn Motel	912-924-8152	Ray Tmakkar

ANDERSONVILLE

Bed and Breakfast	912-924-2558 or 1044
Limited RV Parking	

MONTEZUMA (10 miles north of ANHS, GA; Rt. 49)

Days Inn	912-472-4565	1-800-329-7466
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CORDELE (35 miles east of Americus, US Rt. 280, I-75, exit 33)

Days Inn	912-273-1123	1-800-329-7466
Hampton Inn	912-273-0737	1-800-425-7866
Holiday Inn	912-273-4117	1-800-465-4329
Ramada Inn	912-273-5000	1-800-228-2828
Passport Inn	912-273-4088	1-800-238-6161
Econo Lodge	912-273-2456	1-800-424-4777
Rodeway Inn	912-273-3390	1-800-424-4777
Colonial Inn	912-273-5420	1-800-845-3232

VIENNA (37 miles east of Americus, GA, Rt. 27, I-75, exit 36)

Knights Inn	912-268-2221	1-800-843-5644
Super 8 (exit 35)	912-273-9800	1-800-800-8000

PERRY (40 miles NE of ANHS, GA, Rt. 224, 27, 49, I-75, exits 42 & 43)

Super 8		1-800-800-8000
Scottish Inn		1-800-251-1962
Red Carpet Inn		1-800-251-1962
Rodeway Inn		1-800-424-4777
Travel Lodge		1-800-255-3050
Holiday Inn	912-987-3313	1-800-465-4329
Days Inn	912-987-2142	1-800-329-7466
Ramada Inn	912-987-2585	1-800-272-6232
Econo Lodge (exit 41 to Andersonville)	912-987-2585	1-800-553-2666

ALBANY (38 miles south of Americus, US Rt. 19, GA 49 to ANHS)

Most major and minor motels, good food.

MACON (63 miles NE of ANHS, I-475, exit 1, GA Rt. 49, exit 46 to ANHS) POW Memorial Trail

Most major and minor motels, good food.

RV PARKING & REPAIRS (Cordele, I-75, exit 31)

912-273-0954

Narrative of Capt. Baum
CO - 10th Armored Inf. Bn - 4th Armored Division

Raid on Hammelburg, March 27, 1945

NOTES ON TASK FORCE BAUM

We broke through at SCRWEINHEIM and started to clean out that town at eight o'clock that night. It took us until twelve-thirty before we could pass anything through. From there we went to HAIBACH GRUNMORSBACH where we received our first bazooka fir. I lost a few infantrymen, but no vehicles. We continued on to STRASSBESSENBACH and turned north to KEILBERG. This was somewhere between one-thirty and two-thirty in the morning. At KEILBERG, we got on the main road and went through FROHNHOFEN LAUBACK and HAIN and then went through a stretch of woods. All during this operation, we lost infantrymen in these various towns from small arms and bazooka fir. We kept on going through that stretch of woods and got to RECHTENBACH.

Just outside of the town of LOHR, we lost our first tank. Of course, during our trip, we shot up various vehicles and Krauts in all towns, but the momentum of our column was too fast and too great and so we went straight through. In the town of LOHR itself, we got a Kraut column of twelve vehicles coming toward us. The town was so situated that we just happened to get on the right road and pass through and out of it.

We then got on the road junction and all along the railway from LOHR to NEUENDORF to LANGENPREZELTEN to GEMUNDEN were trains. I estimate that there must have been about twelve trains each consisting of about twenty cars. It was just getting light and it was there that I realized that I was going to run into something. We shot up these trains and a big thirty-car ack-ack train, which was loaded with anti-aircraft weapons and concrete pillboxes. The infantry cleaned that out. We got some 20mm fire from the vicinity of GEMUNDEN and from the other side of the train, but they stopped firing at us as soon as the column really started rolling.

We got into GEMUNDEN and lost three tanks and a bunch of infantry, including a platoon leader and to this day I don't know whether he's dead or alive. They blew a bridge right in our face. This bridge was the only one that would take us to the place we were going to. After further investigation, a PW informed us that the region around LOHR and GEMUNDEN was a marshalling area for two divisions, one division having just unloaded in GEMUNDEN. I believed it as the Krauts were filtering all over the place. After losing three tanks and finding the town loaded, I decided it was best not to go in and seek another route. We backed out of town and went north.

It was about eight-thirty when we got into RIENECK. SHAIPPACH was the town before that. The momentum of the column was quite great and we picked up a couple of Germans in that town and used them to guide us to BURGSINN as there was no bridge in RIENECK. In BURGSINN we captured a Kraut General and his staff. I also picked up a Kraut civilian to guide us to the town of GRAFENDORF. We took off cross-country and went up a mountain trail. In and around GRAFENDORF, the task force freed 700 Russians. These Russians took a magazine and some of them armed themselves and took to the woods in the direction from which we came. We crossed the bridge at GRAFENDORF and followed the river and railroad until we came to WEICKERSGRUBEN.

At this time – two o'clock in the afternoon, I noticed a Kraut liaison plane in the air. I also heard vehicular movement other than my own column when we stopped. I then stopped to orient myself and decide which way to attack this town where the PW camp was located and also find out exactly where the American prisoners were. We left WEICKERSGRUBEN heading northeast and were engaged in a tank fight at OBER. We didn't lose anything nor did the Krauts. The column started moving again, but I knew damn well that we were going to have a tank fight real soon.

From ESCHENBACH to the campsite, we went over two bridges – bypassing the town of HAMMELBURG. We had a tank fight and my platoon of lights, one assault gun, the majority of half-tracks and a platoon of infantry went and started making a move to free the camp.

Meanwhile, my medium trucks, of which I had about six left, engaged these tanks and knocked out three of them, also knocking out three or four ammunition trucks that were in the Kraut column. I kept pushing the task force over the ridge onto this high ground where about two companies of Kraut infantry were dug in. It took us two and one-half hours to clean it up so that the infantry and tanks could move in. In the meantime, the Kraut tanks had knocked out five of my half-tracks and three peeps, one being a medical peep – one of the half-tracks contained gas and one other 105 ammunition.

It was about four-thirty when the first shots were fired on the guards of this military camp. It was about six-thirty or seven-thirty in the evening when the American PW's came out of the camp. I gave them instructions and as many of them as possible road on my vehicles, reorganized and got ready to go back. A great number of PW's were in no shape to go anywhere and they immediately took off in a group carrying a white flag back to the camp.

Starting back, we hadn't gone fifty yards when we lost another tank by bazooka fire. I had to change my direction so took a compass reading and went cross-country. Everything was fine until I crossed the bridge and got into HESSDORF and ran into two roadblocks.

At HOLLRICH, three more tanks were bazooked. I lost a tank company commander there and a large group of infantrymen. Knowing that I couldn't mess around there, I backed out of the area into assembly for reorganization on Hill 427 – coordinates 495652. It was about three-thirty in the morning when I got back on this hill. I immediately got the people together and found out how much gas we had. We siphoned gas out of eight of the half-tracks and destroyed eight to give us some zone of radius for the vehicles. At this particular time, I had three mediums and three lights, plus one command truck.

It was then that I sent my last message to the battalion that the mission was accomplished and we were on our way back for the second time. I oriented the people and informed them to use half-tracks for bridging equipment if necessary to cross streams so as to avoid towns. The real seriously wounded were left in a building marked with a big Red Cross just before daylight.

I got the men together here on top of this hill and gave them a pep talk and, upon finishing, got into my peep when the Krauts attacked. They had an unknown number of SP's to my south, six tanks and the equivalent of two infantry companies advancing on the position from the southeast, backed by SP's which were stationery. To the northwest were six Tiger tanks that were in position firing. A column of tanks came in from the direction of WEICKERSGRUBEN when the attack commenced and stayed in the northwest. At the time they opened up, everybody was just ready to move out. In fact, I had pulled my peep out to form the column when they hit us with the fastest automatic tank fire I had ever seen. My tanks returned the fire as best they could and jockeyed for position. All the vehicles were knocked out and burning and the infantry was being blown to bits by this direct tank fire.

The Kraut tanks and infantry advanced under this assault. They practically destroyed the building which the wounded were in that was marked with the Red Cross. We moved out into the woods and assembled. We then tried to get back to see what we could salvage out of the mess, but each time we showed our faces, the infantry opened up with small arms and the advancing tanks started firing again. We went back into the woods and the two platoon leaders who had taken over told the men to split up in groups of four and take off in the general direction from which we had come. The entire fight lasted twenty-five minutes, but that was the fight.

At this time, the Krauts had the situation well in hand and they continued blowing more bridges in preparation for a larger force. The infantry started mopping up the area with the aid of bloodhounds from the HAMMELBURG PW camp and captured quite a number of the men. In overrunning the positions, they also evacuated our wounded to the hospital in the prison camp that we had just set free. Major Stiller, myself and a lieutenant-anonymous took off in the woods. They ran us down – it got too close for comfort. I could barely walk and had been shot in the knee and in the leg with a thirty-eight which convinced me I had enough for a while. After being captured, we were evacuated to the town of HUNDSFELD. The confusion was so great at that town

nobody even bothered to search us and from there we were marched back to the prison camp.

I was being partially carried-one man assisting me. Being wounded, I managed to get in the building that night while the other prisoners were being taken away. Some of these ex-prisoners who knew the ropes told the Krauts I was one of the group who had escaped and should be sent to a hospital as I couldn't walk. Before I knew it, a Kraut woke me up and sent me by truck to a Serbian hospital at the PW camp – and I still had on my equipment with the exception of the pistol – map, compass and everything else. When I got to the hospital, I found some thirty-five of the men who were wounded in my operation and recaptured. A German surgeon gave an American and Serbian complete control over all the wounded and left us alone. The American doctor, Capt. BRUBACKER, put me in a room off in a corner and I was just a patient. The Germans didn't know who I was or anything about me.

The following day, the General of the camp came back with more guards after marching some 500 to 600 prisoners to NURNBERG. As these American prisoners were recaptured, they were marched back to NURNBERG. They started to evacuate American wounded to BAD KISSINGEN which was declared an open city due to the fact that it had some thirty to forty Kraut hospitals. They had no Americans in the town and wanted to put up an American flag because they were afraid of trouble when the Americans came. In this town was either Goebbel's or Goering's family – I couldn't swear to which. Within the next four days, German ambulances came and evacuated some sixteen or eighteen Americans to this town. All during the days spent in the hospital, the Serbs had hid American PW's that came back in their barracks. The enlisted men's camp had no guards whatsoever, but we gave them instructions they were to stay in camp and not wander out. Only the French and Russians took off for the villages to get food. A batch had taken to the woods in the vicinity of the camp and they were in such a position the Krauts couldn't handle them to evacuate them – that's the way we wanted to keep them.

On April 6th, the 14th Armored Division rolled in with a combat command reinforced and freed the place. Immediate evacuation of our medical patients was made. The enlisted men and sixty-five or seventy officers that remained at that camp were taken care of through proper channels. These officers I refer to are ex-prisoners who had sneaked into the Serbian hospital – they knew the ropes. When we saw the difficulty we were going to have, these sixty-five remained and the balance went back to stockade. Quite a few of those sixty-five were killed or wounded, but they were fighters.

Regarding operations, that's what transpired going from the beginning to the end.

THE LAST PATROL

We're in this thing together; Strength is made perfect in weakness. It's at occasions such as this that I sometimes have a hard time keeping a stiff upper lip when I read "The Dedication" from our AAC book Clipped Wings which covered the yankees stay at Stalag Luft III at Sagan, Germany. This dedication depicts POW's who we buried: Lt Mannka, Corp Scoffer, Corp Myles, Lt Sconiers:

To the memory of these men whose untimely passing
Prevented them from sharing our privilege
Of returning to and living in a land of free men!

We'll borrow a bit from Abraham Lincoln who said "We'll long remember what these men did. "These men surely died in the cause of maintaining this land of free men."

Up to the north at Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland we buried Capt Terrence of the 36th Division. As fellow prisoners of war we were tasked with the duty and honor of preparing him for burial--we couldn't call Schraders or Wiederspahns. Our German captors allowed us to fabricate an American Flag with which to so honor Capt Terrence. Even the Herr Commandant provided a yellow wreath with the Swastika thereon as you can see from the pictures taken by the guards from the German Compliment for this camp of American Ground Officers. Yes, I was an Army Air Corps Lt that remained with the ground force officers at Oflag 64 for most of my two years as a POW. We joined the Luft Lads down at Nurenberg and Mooseburg where we were liberated on 29 April 1945.

Carrying out the regrettable need to bury your fellow American along with some dignity and propriety preferred by your German Guards perhaps fulfills the wisdom of II Corinthians in that "Strength is made perfect in weakness."

At an earlier day MIA-POW ceremony held on the Capitol Grounds downtown then Colonel Jameson of the 90th was the guest speaker. That day he mentioned how distressful, how anguished the parents and families of ex-POWs must have felt during our capture. You know some of US cried that day realizing the heart-break and heartache that our family and friends went through during this period of wonder and worry. So many had thought that MOMS and DADS were always so stalwart, staunch and steady!

Today we are remembering our missing in action(MIA) members and some POW's who have dissolved into we know not where. We are players in a game that seems beyond control of ordinary men. Are we to survive one day at a time as did Col Jim Thompson and Navy Cmdr Everett Alvarez who each spent nine years as prisoners of war of the Viet Cong. President Reagan on awarding these men with their POW medals hailed the nations Vietnam Veterans, saying that they had known only victory on the battlefield yet the war had been lost at home because of "a failure of political will." The president also said the War in Vietnam had "won time for the rest of Southeast Asia and the rest of humanity. You sustained

the dream of freedom and leave as your legacy the free and vibrant nations of that region and the recognition that only free nations can prosper for their peoples." "If there are living Americans being held against their will, we must bring them home or seek a full accounting of Americans still classified as MIA's." Are we really doing all we can to eliminate or alleviate the terrible torture and anxiety of the loved ones of our MIA's and the questionable disappearance of various WW II and Korean War captives. Maybe it will take the wisdom of 'A Solomon.'

Perhaps our added prayers and resolve of this day, today 22 September 1992, should bring resolution to this dilemma.

Mayhaps this very MEMORIAL itself is the beginning of the ending of the anguish and torment rending the hearts of long-enduring people. Could be this is the proverbial 'light.'

Please God! Let this Memorial Message be THE LIGHT OF LIGHTS. Please Lincoln as well--"That these men have not died in vain." Please Bill too- Eternal rest grant unto them Lord! Lord have mercy on US. (Without the dots)

How Did I Become a POW?

On landing at Casablanca in late 1942 some of us visited a leather shop where we bought shoulder holsters and pull-on mosquito boots. On 21 July 1943 my A-36 plane got a 40 millimeter hit forcing me to hit the silk. The opening jolt of my parachute popped my left boot off. When I hit the mountainside instead of heading south to friendly territory, I tried to find that doggone boot on that rocky Sicilian terrain. Right shortly I'm looking at several German burp pistols and the well known greeting of the Krauts "For you the war is over."

Soon after my arrival at Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland I got inducted into the Mission-X operation, a Top Secret activity which resulted in intelligence data coming into and going out of the camp by clandestine means. Some of us became "Code Users (CU's) arranging for radio tubes to come inside softballs, a radio antenna encased in the leg of a ping-pong table.

One of our American German-speaking officers even obtained the grids for a V1, V2 launching facility from an unterofficer who noted the devastation his family was suffering while home on leave. We sent the grids to Military Intelligence in Washington where they richeted them back to England culminating in a night bombing raid that badly damaged the launching facility--hurrah, hurrah!

Participating in this counter intelligence activity gave us a further sense of purpose and accomplishment in continuing to give the enemy a bad time. We were awarded the Bronze star but were cautioned to remain silent about it. Many of us participants feel that this type of function was the forerunner of the Counter Intelligence Agency (CIA) and could have potential

applications in future conflicts and hostage taking situations.
Options unlimited!

However, Floyd Schumacker, a stateside de-coder and operative in Washington D.C. decided to write a book in 1984 with permission of proper authority. This book, The Escape Factory released this Top Secret information that we POW's had kept silent on for forty years. We wryly noted that future prisoners wouldn't get letter writing privileges or be allowed any reception of recreational equipment or reading material. At least, that's our opinion.

CITATION FOR BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Second Lieutenant William B. Kerber, while held prisoner by Germany, at great personal risk, performed duties which resulted in valuable information reaching the War Department. His services were also of vital importance to his fellow prisoners of War.

21 August 1945

Kerber

Second Lieutenant William B. Kerber
AAF Redistribution Station No. 3
Santa Monica, California

My dear Lieutenant Kerber:

Word has just been received at this headquarters that by direction of the President, the Bronze Star Medal has been awarded you by the War Department.

It has been a source of inspiration to me to learn of your heroic achievements while a prisoner of war in Germany, which has merited this award. Your enviable record of service to your country must be a source of pride to you.

I have requested the Commanding Officer, AAF Redistribution Station No. 3, to make the necessary arrangements to present this decoration to you. He will communicate with you shortly to make plans for the presentation.

Sincerely yours,

WM. E. SHSDD
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

These three pages of comedy are furnished by Irv. If Saturday Night Live hears about him they will probably try to hire him!

>

>A Jewish man moves into a Catholic neighborhood. Every Friday the Catholics

>go crazy because, while they're morosely eating fish, the Jew is outside
>barbecuing steaks. So the Catholics work on the Jew to convert him.

>Finally, by threats and pleading, the Catholics succeed. They take the Jew
>to a priest who sprinkles holy water on the Jew and intones:

>

> "Born a Jew

> Raised a Jew

> Now a Catholic."

>

>The Catholics are ecstatic. No more delicious, but maddening smells every

>Friday evening. But the next Friday evening, the scent of barbecue wafts

>through the neighborhood. The Catholics all rush to the Jew's house to

>remind him of his new diet. They see him standing over the cooking steak.

>He is sprinkling water on the meat and saying:

>

> "Born a cow

> Raised a cow

> Now a fish."

>

Subject: FW: pope vs the jews

A long time ago, the Pope decided that all the Jews had to leave the
>Vatican. Naturally there was a big uproar from the Jewish community.
>So the Pope made a deal. He would have a religious debate with a
>member of the Jewish community. If the Jew won, the Jews could stay.
>If the Pope won, the Jews would leave.

>
>The Jews realized that they had no choice. So they picked a middle
>aged man named Moishe to represent them. Moishe asked for one
>addition

>to the debate. To make it more interesting, neither side would be
>allowed to talk. The pope agreed.

>
>The day of the great debate came. Moishe and the Pope sat opposite
>each other for a full minute before the Pope raised his hand and
>showed three fingers. Moishe looked back at him and raised one finger.
>The Pope waved his fingers in a circle around his head. Moishe
>pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope pulled out a wafer and a
>glass of wine. Moishe pulled out an apple. The Pope stood up and
>said, "I give up. This man is too good. The Jews can stay."

>
>An hour later, the cardinals were all around the Pope asking him what
>happened. The Pope said: "First I held up three fingers to represent
>the Trinity. He responded by holding up one finger to remind me that
>there was still one God common to both our religions. Then I waved my
>finger around me to show him that God was all around us. He responded
>by pointing to the ground and showing that God was also right here
>with us. I pulled out the wine and the wafer to show that god absolves
>us from our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of original
>sin. He had an answer for everything. What could I do?"

>
>Meanwhile, the Jewish community had crowded around Moishe. "What
>happened?" they asked. "Well," said Moishe, "First he said to me that
>the Jews had three days to get out of here. I told him that not one of
>us was leaving. Then he told me that this whole city would be cleared
>of Jews. I let him know that we were staying right here."

>
>"And then?" asked a woman.

>
>"I don't know," said Moishe. "He took out his lunch and I took out *mine*."

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.
Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.

Both were shot in the head.

Here is an interesting one...

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners.
Both were succeeded by Southerners.

Both successors were named Johnson.
Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.
Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln was born in 1839.
Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy was born in 1939.

Both assassins were known by their three names.
Both names compromise fifteen letters.

Booth ran from the theater and was caught in a warehouse.
Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theater.

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

And last but not least,

A week before Lincoln was shot he was in Monroe, Maryland.
A week before Kennedy was shot he was in Marilyn Monroe.

THE BULGE REVISITED

(The following is a newspaper feature I wrote which I thought might also be of interest to the men of Oflag 64: not many of the Schubin crowd had participated in the Battle of the Bulge, but many of their units were there. Also, I know a lot of us trained at Indiantown Gap in WWII or subsequent service in the Army Reserve or National Guard, or were discharged from there. I've made a few additions and changes to make it more suitable for our audience. - Jerry Alexis)

When he made his farewell address to the cadets at West Point, General Douglas MacArthur ended by saying, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Not necessarily! A lot of us veterans tell war stories, or better still, go off to re-enactments of by-gone battles.

That's what happened the weekend of Jan. 30-31 when about a dozen of us from the greater Pittsburgh area - mostly WWII prisoners of war - drove to Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation for a re-enactment of the Battle of the Bulge put on by the World War II Preservation Federation and co-sponsored by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge organization. Driving through the snow, sleet, and rain Friday morning, our thoughts went back to the miserable weather of the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and wondered - worried, really - if we'd have that touch realism for the weekend. Fortunately, after we crossed the mountains the weather cleared up and the snow disappeared.

As we pulled into the barracks area where we'd be staying, chills of remembrance went through us as we saw hundreds of soldiers in American, German, and British Commonwealth uniforms. There were also jeeps, half-tracks, weapons carriers, anti-tank guns, motorcycles, trucks, scout cars, and even tanks all over the place. Talk about *deja vu!* After we signed in and unpacked our gear in the familiar WWII two-story barracks, now warmly insulated and covered with aluminum siding but still with bunk beds and wall lockers, we returned to Friday's main feature, a huge WWII flea market.

In two former recreation halls there were rows of tables piled high with uniforms of every nation, as well as insignia and shoulder patches. You could buy mess kits, back packs, bayonets, entrenching tools, and just about any other kind of memorabilia you can imagine. If you wore it or carried it in WWII, it was there. Outside in a large parking lot there were dozens of other dealers selling out of their vans, trucks, and car trunks. Prices seemed rather high to those of us not into the re-enactment hobby, \$60 for U.S. Army fatigue pants or shirts, for example. Surprisingly, one of our group bought a "mint shape" German officer's hat for \$20.

The best part of the whole week-end was visiting with the re-enactors. Most were in their 20's to 40's, although some were WWII veterans. Next door to us was an infantry platoon representing the *Grossdeutschland Division*. Each man had assumed the identity of an actual WWII soldier in that unit, and from their service records obtained from Germany, and could tell us their hometown and dates and places of the battles they had fought. Their barracks walls were covered not only with military signs, but propaganda posters and photos. I'll tell you, it gave me goose-bumps as a former POW in Germany!

One of the most intriguing pieces of equipment for me was their German *Wehrmacht* field stove of the type that accompanied our POW march column 350 miles across northern Poland and Germany in early 1945 as they kept us from being liberated by the Russians. The stove's about three-foot square and contains three pressure cooker compartments capable of feeding 80 men. The contraption is mounted on wheels and has a trailer hitch for hauling. There's a demountable smoke stack about four feet tall and it's fired with wood. I was surprised that I was the only veteran and ex-POW who had ever seen one of the stoves!

I found out from their mess sergeant as we visitors ate *kartoffel* soup and *sauerkraut und wurst* from their cooker that they had gotten it as surplus from the German *Bundeswehr* which told them it was a 1957 model, but closely resembled the original WWII one. (I can vouch for that.) However, when they started to clean and repair it, they discovered equipment ID plates that listed it as being made in 1944. They were ecstatic at their good luck.

Among the American units represented were the 28th and 29th Infantry Divisions, the 4th Armored Division, and the 101st Airborne Division. The Commonwealth units included the Irish and Welsh Guards and the Queen's Own Canadian Regiment; their members were all from Canada. Allied barracks included footlockers laid out for inspection.

The re-enactment Saturday morning was disappointing. Nobody seemed to know where it was going to be held. There were rumors that we'd be driving seven miles to where it was held last year, so we all piled into our cars, trucks, and vans, ready to move out. Then they said it was going to be at the Gap's military airport a mile or so away. Finally we were told it was going to be on the mountainside behind the rifle ranges which were located only three blocks from our barracks. Just like the "snafu's" and "hurry-up-and-wait's" of our WWII days!

By now it was nine o'clock and the day had turned out clear and sunny, although in the 30's and windy. The units moved down the range road about a quarter of a mile and disappeared into the woods. Soon we could hear firing in the distance, slowly coming back toward us. We ran up to the top of the target parapets to try to see the action, but were

ordered back down. As the fighting drew closer to us, they said it was all right to go back up, but we still couldn't see much of anything in the woods and brush except for a few figures crawling or running. A few German POW's were brought our past us. As the action moved farther away we left. Those who've attended Revolutionary and Civil War re-enactments would have been disappointed after the open-field exercises they've seen at Bushy Run, Brandywine, Antietam, and Gettysburg. For us there was no siege of Bastogne or St. Vith nor hand-to-hand combat such as at the Bulge.

On Saturday night most of the 1,100 re-enactors and 150 visiting veterans attended a dinner at the former NCO Club, now the Community Center. We old-timers were encouraged to wear our wartime uniforms, but few of us can get into them. I do have a pair of fatigues and combat boots that I can still squeeze into, so I wore them.

It was an an enjoyable time for us as the re-enactors "picked our brains" about our experiences so they could improve their performances inthe future. No, old soldiers don't just fade away!



Photo 1

UN
↑

Jerry Alexis with a WWII veteran re-enactor and his brother, Roger Alexis. The re-enactment took place in the woods behind the range parapet.



Photo 2

German troops line up for their evening mess from the field stove.



1
↑

Photo 3

A motorized column of 101st Airborne paratroopers preparing to move out

From the diary of Ormond A. Roberts

I was a Lt. in A company, 163 th inf; 34th div.

I was captured in the area of Sidi Bousid, Tunisia; Africa in Feb. 1943 and liberated in May 1945 at Gars, Germany. From June 1943 to January 21, 1945 I spent at Cflag 64 Schubin; Poland. From Jan. 21, 1945 to the middle of Mar. 1945 we marched through Poland and Germany. We eventually got on a train that took us through Berlin (which was being bombed) and then on to Cflag at Hammelburg.

The following are events that occurred at Hammelburg and our march from Hammelburg to Gars, Germany as noted in my diary.

On Mar. 26, 1945 we were informed that we would be leaving Hammelburg for possibly Nurenburg.

On Mar. 27th heavy firing all day. We were to move out of Hammelburg at 5.00 hrs. Mar. 28 th. Too late as American tanks are in Cflag at 1740 hrs. I went up the hill outside Cflag where the remainder of the tanks and vehicles were located and got onto a halftrack. I asked the driver how far it was to the American lines. He said 60 miles. After weighing my physical condition (feet and legs were bad) I got off of the halftrack and went back into the Cflag. While on the halftrack I got enough American rations to have a full stomach for the first time in many months. Those that did not go with the probing force (Baun) were marched out of Hammelburg at 2.40 hrs. on March 28, 1945. There were 304 prisoners. We marched from Hammelburg to Arnstein (15) km. and then to Schwancken Werth (10) km.

March 29- Marched from Schwancken Werth to Herlheim. Twenty more officers joined our ranks.

March 30- Marched from Herlheim to Cberschwarzach (12 kms)

March 31- Marched from Cberschwarzach to Heuchelheim (19 kms)

April 1- Rested this Easter Day. Received Red Cross food parcel (one to three men). I also stole a goose egg from a goose on the nest and divided it with W.C. Pete Knapp. Gestapo made a search today.

April 2- Marched from Heuchelheim to Cberlindach (25 kms)

April 3- Marched from Cberlindach to Vach (17) kms.

April 4- Marched from Vach to Fürth.

April 5- Marched from Fürth to Feucht (20 kms). In going from Fürth to Feucht we passed through Nurenburg. We had an hours rest period 5 kms. before we came to Nurenburg. As we got set to march on there was an air alert which lasted for an hour. At the end of this period heavy bombers started → the rail yard. This was on the railroad which ran parallel
BOMBING
Cont.

to the road that we were marching along at approximately 200 meters from our position. After the fourth wave of bombers had gone over us their bombs had bracketed their target, the railyard. The fifth wave of bombers bracketed on our side of the railroad yards and dropped 250 and 500 pound bombs all along our column. The front of our column (we were in pine woods along side of the road) was hit the hardest as the 500 pound bombs were concentrated in this area. Officers from the 106 th and they suffered many casualties. I was at the rear of the column and six bombs fell in our general area, two of which were within 20 ft. of me. One of these broke a water main which flooded the ditch beside the road where I was lying. There were (24) officers killed and four more died from the effects. There were (23) hospital cases. A German guard within (10) ft. of me was killed. Others in the area were injured, however, not seriously. The only effects it had on me was a swollen face. An ammunition dump had been the target for the bombing. We could hear the dump exploding long after we left the area.

April 6- Rested after the bombing. One Red Cross food parcel for each man. There were (52) officers and (3) orderlies from Cflag 64 on the march.

April 7- Marched from Feucht to Buch (15 kms)

April 8- Marched from Buch to Seligenporten (11 kms)† Stayed in a large barn a few kms from village.

April 9- Rested and repaired shoes for those on the march whose shoes were wearing out.

April 10- Marched from Seligenporten to Erasbach (15 kms)

April 11- Marched from Erasbach to Kevenhüll (15)kms.

April 12- Rested and repaired shoes.

April 13- Marched from Kevenhüll to Zell (12 kms.), Heard that President Roosevelt died yesterday.

April 14- Rested

April 15- Marched from Zell to Shafshill (21 kms).

April 16- Rested and repaired shoes, People very poor in this area.

April 17- Marched from Shafshill to Weltenburg (21 kms). Crossed Danube on a scow, Water anything but blue.

April 18- Marched from Weltenburg to Haljenbach (19 kms).

Cont.

April 19-Rested and repaired shoes.

April 20-Rested and repaired shoes. Started at 23.00 hrs for Bogenhausen.

April 21- Marched from Haljenbach to Bogenhausen (20 kms.). Received (2) Red Cross parcels per man.

April 22- Marched from Bogenhausen to Sietstetten (20 kms.)

April 23- Rested and repaired shoes. Recieved shoe repair equipment from YMCA. Hops are raised in this area.

April 24- Rested and repaired shoes.

April 25- Rested and repaired shoes at a small farm of

April 25- (1.8) hectares. There were (3) people living here and they had (2) cows, (1) hog and (12) hens.

April 27-Marched from Sietstetten to Untermarchenbach (19 Kms)

April 28- Marched from Untermarchenbach to Hinterauerbach (20) Kms. A bad day, heavy rains.

April 29- Rested and repaired shoes. Started at (2100) hrs. For Inning (12 kms). Stayed in church,

April 30- Marched from Inning to Moosen (12 kms). Recieved one Red Cross Food parcel for four men. There were also French food parcels,

May 1- Marched from Moosen to Obertaufkirch (18)kms.

May 2- Marched from Obertaufkirch to Gars (17 kms), Gars is an international hospital zone. We were to march further but the SS had blown the bridge across the river before we got to Gars. At 1:10 hrs. American soldiers arrived from the (86)div., (3)rd army.

May 3- The day we had waited for had come. We were loaded into trucks of the (14)th Armored Infantry and taken to Moosburg. Capt, Guy Petrazani, who was a classmate of mine in R.C.T.C. at the University of New Hampshire, was in charge of the convoy.

May 4-8-Stayed at Moosburg.

May 8-Moosburg to Ingolstadt airport. Stayed here all day and at 1715 hrs. boarded a C47. Arrived at Rheims airport 1928 hrs.

May 10- Processed at Ramp Camp, no (8)

May 11-Left Rheims airport at 1154 hrs. Arrived at Le Havre at 1311 hrs. and went to Camp Lucky Strike.

May 13- Left lucky strike for home on Liberty ship.

Marched 25 days - 418 kms = approx 259 miles.

**IOWA GOLD STAR MUSEUM
7700 NW Beaver Drive
Johnston, IA 50131-1902
515-252-4531**

Herb Garris
P.O. Box 1693
Pinehurst, NC 28374

January 21, 1998

Dear Mr. Garris:

I would like to acknowledge receipt of the beautiful plaque presented to the Iowa Gold Star Museum. BG Verris Hubbell (Ret.) was kind enough to have recently invited me to his residence to accept the plaque on behalf of the museum.

It is understood this was prepared and initially presented by the OFLAG 64 reunion group at their 1997 gathering in Rhode Island, with the expressed intent of donating it to the museum. The museum will be happy to incorporate this into our existing Prisoner of War exhibit where the model of OFLAG 64 is on display.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Foxen
Museum Technician

Story Of Little Known War Crime

**KATYN: Stalin's Massacre
and the Seeds of Polish
Resurrection**
By Allen Paul
Naval Institute Press, \$19.95

BY HERB GARRIS

This is clearly one of the most remarkable works on the tragic story of The Katy Massacre, a carefully designed and executed execution of some 15,000 Polish members of their armed forces and many of the elite civilian population among Poland's professional, highly esteemed citizens.

It began with the invasion of



Allen Paul

Poland by the German Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe in 1939. Mass population deportations and flights began shortly after the German presence and the Occupation with its attendant robbery and pillaging escapades. The Soviets, after the 1941 invasion by the Germans, joined in the mass shift of population movements into Eastern Russia and even to the Siberian areas.

The horrible execution and burial site with three adjacent areas of common graves was bulldozed and planted with

young saplings to conceal the despicable acts. The specific location of the tragedy is near Smolensk in White Russia along the Dnieper River and is called Katy Forest.

The actual slayings took place in April and May of 1940. These horrible and inhumane acts were never publicly revealed until the Soviet Leader Gorbachev made a personal announcement and assumed full responsibility for the slayings on April 30, 1990, 53 years later.

Its discovery was made by the German occupying troops who detected a hungry wolf pawing and recovering relic items in their search for food in the grave vicinity.

Here the author shows the classic and sad examples of Poland as a nation with its vulnerable geographic location and the resultant harsh treatment it has received for years from its more aggressive and powerful neighbors. It vividly shows how Stalin allowed many citizens to flee to friendly countries and even permitted some of the military personnel to serve under the Soviet colors.

Many who fled to safety and under the Polish Government in exile in London flew with the RAF and others fought alongside the 5th Army in Italy under General Mark Clark with complete dedication and devotion. Some negotiation was possible between the Allies in Poland's behalf but it was weak and never satisfactory. This includes the hidden details of Russia's part in the Katyn tragedy.

The author, with his profound research, is highly commended for his first hand interviews with many of the few living survivors. For them to have the recall of events and people from so long ago is remarkable.

While this reviewer actually knows only two people who are familiar with and have been to the Katyn site, they share a compelling and touching story of what they saw and the lasting impression it left on them

One in particular is a close friend of mine who in early May 1943 was hand picked by the high German authorities to visit Katyn. The German hope was for team of two officers to view and make a case for the Soviets having committed the atrocities, and that it was not the work of the German S. S. or Gestapo. In short time, in Krakow in the center Market Square, a palling and dignified ceremony was conducted on live radio upon the arrival of several bodies which were exhumed and brought home for burial with church bells tolling and the names of the victims read for the citizens to hear.

The American officers were completely positive of their findings and were immediately held to sworn secrecy of what they saw. Why? Because the Allies had already grief enough with Stalin and while sympathetic to Poland, they did not hold the means to do anything at that time. Congress, some seven years later as the Korean War was at hand, launched an investigation, which was most revealing. Yet the highest government levels came to the conclusion to leave well enough alone. By then the Cold War was a looming threat to the free world with the

Soviets holding the nuclear weapons and capability to launch them.

In summary, this fine work deserves reading by the public in general, but more especially the military and Foreign Service as well as scholars of political science and foreign relations. It clearly delineates the ends to which cruel and harsh dictators often pursue their own selfishly goals. Yet with it lies an unusual enigma in the mind of this reviewer. How could leaders of this ilk so mislead their constituents, continuing a war that they knew as early as January of 1945, could not be won?

This is a very fine work and provides a great service of showing us how fortunate we are with life in a reasonable

THE PILOT-Southern Pines, North Carolina
Monday, December 22, 1997

**IOWA GOLD STAR MUSEUM
7700 NW Beaver Drive
Johnston, IA 50131-1902
515-252-4531**

Herb Garris
P.O. Box 1693
Pinehurst, NC 28374

January 21, 1998

Dear Mr. Garris:

I would like to acknowledge receipt of the beautiful plaque presented to the Iowa Gold Star Museum. BG Verris Hubbell (Ret.) was kind enough to have recently invited me to his residence to accept the plaque on behalf of the museum.

It is understood this was prepared and initially presented by the OFLAG 64 reunion group at their 1997 gathering in Rhode Island, with the expressed intent of donating it to the museum. The museum will be happy to incorporate this into our existing Prisoner of War exhibit where the model of OFLAG 64 is on display.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Foxen
Museum Technician



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / THOMAS JAMES HURST

Roy D. Moser became a prisoner of war on Dec. 17, 1944, the beginning of a 4½-month experience that haunted him for decades.

Acknowledgment for a nightmare

Roston Globe 10/97

By Chris Black
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — More than half a century after being captured and tortured by the Nazis, a retired Boston police officer moved a step closer yesterday to being compensated by Germany for the time he spent in a concentration camp during World War I.

The House Judiciary Committee yesterday approved a bill that would allow Roy D. Moser of Holbrook to apply for reparations under the Holocaust Claims Settlement program.

The program implements a 1995 treaty that requires the German government to pay an unspecified sum to US citizens who were confined to concentration camps or sub-camps during the war. Other types of camps, including holding camps and POW camps, are not covered by the treaty.

Moser was six months old when his family moved to the Boston area from Halifax, Nova Scotia. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 thinking he was a naturalized citizen. He later found out he was not, and became a US citizen after the war.

The legislation filed by Representative William Delahunt of Quincy would make Moser, who grew up in Dorchester, eligible

Bill to enable reparations for POW tortured by Nazis

for reparations by declaring he was a naturalized citizen when his military service began. The measure still must be approved by the full House and the Senate, where Senator Edward M. Kennedy is working on the issue.

The Judiciary Committee also approved a bill filed by Delahunt for John A. Chalot, a retired postal worker from Florida who was held in Buchenwald when captured by the Germans after his fighter plane crashed in Holland.

"When they were prisoners of war, they were treated as Americans. When they were at Buchenwald, they were Americans. When they were being tortured and abused, they were Americans," Delahunt said. "They absolutely deserve to be compensated."

"I wanted to fight the enemies of the United States. So I volunteered for the paratroops," said Moser, who was sent to France.

He helped with the Allied push to liberate that country, but the Nazis captured Moser after his unit, the 28th Division, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit, ran out of ammunition and was forced to surrender.

"There were too many of them and too few of us. It was that simple," Moser said in a telephone interview.

prisoner of war on Dec. 17, 1944, the beginning of a 4½-month nightmare that haunted him for decades. "It was a terrible experience," he said remembering the capture. "We were locked into box cars and bombed in Frankfurt."

The 350 POWs initially were confined to Stalag 9B, a Nazi POW camp. But in February 1945, Moser and the other prisoners were transferred to Berga, a sub-camp of Buchenwald.

"They actually worked you and starved you to death," said Moser. "Within six weeks, 24 of the American soldiers died from starvation, overwork, disease, and physical abuse. In early April 1945, the prisoners were forced on a death march away from the advancing Allies. By the time they were liberated on April 27, only 280 Americans were still alive."

Three days after leaving the Army in 1945, he got married. Moser and his wife Thelma eventually moved from Boston to Holbrook, where they raised four daughters. They have 10 grandchildren.

Moser, who spent 32 years as a Boston police officer until his retirement eight years ago, said he is grateful that he may be compensated by the German government, but the acknowledgment of wrongdoing is more important than any money he may receive.

"After 52 years, they are finally coming through. I appreciate all the work that is be-

'Citizen Soldiers' Deserves Accolades

CITIZEN SOLDIERS
By Stephen E. Ambrose
Simon & Schuster, 1997, \$27.50

BY HERBERT L. GARRIS

This is the third of three most impressive works by Stephen Ambrose from 1994 with "D-Day June 6, 1944," to the compelling story of "Undaunted Courage" as shown in the historic Lewis and Clark expedition across the west to the Pacific, and now his return to the events of the larger and overall picture of the European Theater of operations in World War II.

This work struck me primarily as a splendid tribute to the junior officers and enlisted men and their great effort in this conflict. Those who had entered from high school, college, civilian occupations and their families to proudly join a call to arms by our nation. The author carefully wove into the parallels he found in other "citizen soldiers" from wars of early times, more specifically, the Civil War. The latter was a national matter in which our democratic leaders of the New Republic were unwilling to meet, talk and negotiate a solution to what subsequently led to the deadly killing ground between the Union and

Confederate military forces. The author earlier into his associate professorship of history at Johns Hopkins University wrote of a very similar case of our disastrous course of action in the Vietnam days. He describes it as a time of "high politics, peace and war, and a flagrant abuse of power and trust by our national leaders."

It is not a book about generals and senior commanders, yet they receive some considerable attention throughout, but it is a work shown in careful detail with his fine research about how these young soldiers served and endured and won.

The format of the book is commendable in its convenient map coverage and germane photos in each of the chronological divisions. They include: "The Battle for France at the German Border," "Life in the ETO." and "Overrunning Germany." This reviewer was there on the same ground for nearly all of the period and can attest to the accuracy of the vivid account Ambrose has presented so well.

Some of the harshest weather, along with a formidable and battled tested enemy, led to the extremely high casualties of Omaha and Utah beach heads, an ill-fated airborne operation into Holland, and a capricious



Stephen Ambrose

dream of hope which Hitler proposed and attempted to execute - the bloody Battle of the Bulge - and to split the Allied armies and to seize the vital port of Antwerp. The onslaught was impeded with an incomparable cost in our forces and equipment under the most extreme weather conditions, yet they held!

In summary, this reviewer has the highest respect and appreciation of the fine work, which so very well portrays and credits the many unheralded and brave dedicated men and women who supported the fighting elements. It was fought with such determination to win, through cohesion, loyalty and bravery. Simply put, these "Citizen Soldiers" are finally recipients of an honored accolade.

An exceptionally well-written and documented story meant for all readers.