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# Post Oflag 64 Item

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SPRING 1999

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## ABOUT THE WINTER 1998 ISSUE OF THE ITEM

A NEW COMPANY WAS HIRED TO COPY THE LAST ISSUE OF THE ITEM. THIS WAS A MISTAKE. SOME OF YOU RECEIVED COPIES THAT WERE ILLEGIBLE, WERE INCOMPLETE, ETC. THE MAIL WAS GONE BEFORE THE MISTAKE WAS DISCOVERED. IF YOU RECEIVED A COPY THAT WASN'T UP TO PAR, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR AND A NEW COPY WILL BE SENT TO YOU. C'EST LA VIE!

THE PLACES AND DATES OF THE NEXT REUNIONS ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE. AS OF NOW THEY ARE:

1999	CHARLESTON, SC
2000	LAUGHLIN, NV
2001	SPOKANE, WA

MORE DETAILS OF THE COMING REUNIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT FEW PAGES.

PUBLICATIONS

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

Make check out to Oflag 64 PF and  
 mail to the Editor.

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*In the Presence of Mine Enemies* \$10.00

Make check payable to and send to:

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

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*Escape to Russia* \$35.00

Make check payable and send to:

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

POSTAGE FUND DONORS

*Winter 98 issue to Winter 99 Issue*

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# MAIL CALL

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Our Guest Editor, Irv Yarock, has read all your letters, and says:

Are you a long range planner? "**Pat Waters**" says save October 20-24 for Charleston. More details to follow.

**Ethelene M. Garris** passes away. She and Herb made up the team that held us together for many years, and our condolences to **Herb** and his family. Herb was a prolific letter writer, and we hope he'll be back in action soon. There is an old saying, "I'd rather wear out than rust out". We never forget, nor do we want to, but we learn to adjust with time. Our best to you, Herb.

**Jean Christensen**, Loveland Co., compliments Bob Thompson on the Item. She's **Bob Christensen's** widow. Thanks for the donation to the P.F.

**Ken Hyatt**, Shakopee, MN, lost his wife after only 56 years. Our condolences and thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**Don Wernette**, Mecosta, MI also lost his wife. Our best wishes and thanks for the donation to the PF.

**James Watts**, Riverside, CA is new to our roster. Was with us when we left Oflag64 and ended up at Luckenwalde.

**Abe Baum**, San Diego, ordered extra copies of the Hammelburg Tribute to him for his children. Thanks for the contribution to the PF.

**Susan White**, Arlington, TX ordered the Baum Book for her father **Vincent White**. Says they enjoy discussing his adventures as a family. Think seriously about that. When we go into the schools we find that students don't even know whether their parents or grandparents were even in the service. Pass your experiences along.

**Bill Warthen**, Vidalia, GA sent a copy of the Baum Book to the Eisenhower Center, **923 Magazine St. New Orleans. LA 70130. Attn: Douglas Brinkley**. People in the areas might check to see if they have anything to donate to the center.

**Jack Rathbone**, Denver, CO. sent a few pages from Ed Beatties book in which says he was on the welcoming committee when Bob Thompson and Kermit Hansen arrived at Oflag 64.

**Martha Miles**, Redlands, CA writes to tell us that her husband Richard Miles passed away.

**Alan Dunbar**, Las Vegas, NV writes that despite some unforeseen expenses. Deposits rebates for cancellations, etc., we still came out in the black and has forwarded a check to **Joe Seringer**, who handles our funds. Didn't Alan do a great job! Kudos to them, but they aren't done yet. Alan has a friend in Charleston whose name he is sending to "**Pat**" **Waters** as a source of help for 1999.

**George Juskalian**, Centerville, VA missed the last two reunions, but is looking forward to Charleston. Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund. George and his father are mentioned prominently in a

# MAIL CALL

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historical book in which to immigrating Armenians America was Worcester. Their first question on arriving was "how do I get to Worcester?". They knew they were in the Worcester MA area.

**Tom Lawson**, Grand Junction, CO and his wife **Sue** were close letter friends with Herb and Ethelene Garris, and we're sure they were a source of comfort to Herb during his trying days.

**Earl Smoak**, Beaufort, SC-no excuses, we'll expect to see you at the reunion at Charleston. Thanks for the donation to the PF.

**Herm Littman**, Spokane, WA, hints he might give up sky-diving. Of course, I never could understand why anyone would voluntarily jump from a plane or even allow himself to be pushed out. Herm really touts Washington (the state) as an ideal place for a reunion. Thanks for the contribution to the Postage Fund. Herm can't match the story of Irwin Stovroff of Boca Raton, FL whose bomber was shot down and he was lucky enough to get out. On landing and being captured, the Germans questioned him and got nowhere so the German said "if you don't want to tell me I'll tell you", and he proceeded to tell Stovroff the names of the members of his family, and what school he went to, and the name of the street he lived on. The German officer had been brought up in the states and he had been the family paper boy. (It didn't help Stovroff)

**Richard Manton**, North Tanawanda, NY, complains that he can't remember some of the people whose names appear in the Item, but he did remember to send a donation to the PF. Thanks

**Nat Hoskot**, Alexandria, VA complains about the hike in postal rates and sent a contribution to the PF. Thanks

**Ormond Roberts**, Worcester, MA complains that like his old car, he's wearing out.. Join the club. Ormond has an aversion to flying. In fact I (Irv) rode down to Newport with him. I don't know whether Charleston is within his cruising range. Thanks for the donation to the PF.

**Virginia Barton**, Black Eagle, MT only attended one of our reunions, but enjoys reading the Item. She was a nurse in Africa and Italy. Thanks for the donation to the PF.

**John McDonald**, Sun City Center, FL. We expect to see you at the reunion in Charleston. It's just a hop, skip and jump away. Thanks for the donation to the PF.

**Robert O'Neill**, Santa Maria, CA is a newcomer to our group, though his name does appear in our master roster. He was caught in the Battle of the Bulge. Says he was in Barracks 3A., though I don't remember him, but he knew about the tunnel and the location of the sand, etc. Anyone looking for him, his address is 410 Hawthorne St. Santa Maria, CA 93458. He mentions **Captain Keilmeyer** (now deceased) who is not in our book and **Brandon Fullarm** (now deceased) who is now in our book. Bob got away two days into the march, got onto a train towards Moscow, but was thrown off because he didn't have a visa. Ended up coming out through Odessa..

**Anyone know anything about Captain Maynard Files?. Our roster shows him as deceased, but then again it shows me (Irv) as deceased. If anyone knows anything, let me know. One of his enlisted men has been looking for him for years. Send any information to-Irving Yarock, 51 Barclay St., Worcester, M 01604.**

# MAIL CALL

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The Baum tribute book was huge success and Bob Thompson had to do a reprint. Here's a list of some of the customers: **George Juskalian**, Centerville, VA., **Ken Hyatt**, Shakopee, MN, **George Greene**, Fredicksburg, TX, **Edith Rosenberg**, Abbeville SC., **Carl Christensen**, Herman Littman, Spokane WA, plus some others mentioned in the text that I might have missed.

**Bill Warthern** Vidalia, GA keeps on the lookout for material, and this time sent along a card from **Dudley Robbins** which gave the recipe for black bread from the Hammelburg kitchen. At Hammelburg, they took advantage of the leeway, i.e. if you don't have the ingredients, substitute with anything you have. Here's the official recipe taken from the German files:

50% bruised rye grain  
20% sliced sugar beets  
20% tree flour (sawdust)  
10% minced leaves and straw

Not in the official recipe, but some of us experienced a little sand to add "body"

Too late for Irv's deadline , so Bob T says,

In a phone conversation with **Jerry Alexis** he states that he is to be a host at Andersonville POW Museum . He will attend the Charleston reunion during the same trip He has an "After Action Report" of the 110<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Division that he will share with anybody that wants a copy. He will send you a copy if you will send him \$1.00 for the postage. This report was obtained by **Col. Harley Fuller**. Jerry can be reached at:

E.J.Alexis  
129 Point Vue Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-1883

**Doc Barnum**, Cazenovia, NY sends the article about his good friend **Ralph Tedeschi**. Ralph's obituary is included and is on another page. Doc and Ralph and members of their families made some great trips together.

Had a nice conversation with **James (Jim ) Bond** from Waco, TX. Our roster shows him as deceased, but he assured me he was still upright. Jim was CO "E" Co, 143rd Inf., 36<sup>th</sup> Div. that took such a beating at Salerno, Italy. Jim left us on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the march, at the Polish Officers Camp. Remember that place?

## Irv Yarock sent a couple of stories:

An Ex-POW living in my area was in the 16th Infantry of the 1st Division. He previously lived in Maine and this happened before 1984, which when our roster says Lt. Morse died. At a VA hospital this enlisted man was asking everyone he saw about Capt Maynard Files who was his company CO. He ran into Morse who lost track of Files but said "I helped him get his degree". Here's the story. Files took ROTC in his junior and senior year in college. The custom at the time was that you received your commission and your degree together. Files didn't get his degree because he had flunked a math course, but because of the rapid expansion of the military at the time, they gave him his commission anyway. In Oflag 64 we had a Lt Morse who had achieved the highest scores ever given at the University of Maine in mathematics. The school sent Morse the math book and the exams, and told Morse that when he said Files passed, they would accept his word. When Morse said Files passed the course the school sent his wife his degree.

Dear Bob:

In the fall of 1998 bulletin you published the names of the staff of Oflag 64, and one of the names struck me with a story.

It was the late 40s or early 50s. We had reconstituted the 94th Infantry Division (Reserve). We were on active duty for summer training, and we had literally no equipment. Everything was borrowed. We received word that a representative of the Chief of Army Reserve and ROTC Affairs (it was a combined job then) was coming to inspect. I was supervising a rifle range, and suddenly a literal mob came toward the range led by the Commanding General and much of his staff. As they came close enough to recognize them, I said "Jonesy, what the hell are you doing here?" It was LTC Charles Jones of the 36th Division who was in barracks 3B at Oflag 64. He looked up and said "I'm your inspector and the inspection is over. I have a bottle in my room, let's go." In his room he said "O.K. Irv. tell me the situation". I said "everything you saw was borrowed. We don't have a thing. At the end of these two weeks we return the stuff and then we're back to nothing again." It's not easy to train without equipment". Jones just sat there shaking his head and muttering "my boss isn't going to like this". I said "what are the inspectors reporting?". He said they are saying everything is great." I said "what are you going to report." He said, "Irv, take my word, I'm going to report what you said". Jones was true to his word because 3 to 4 weeks later equipment started pouring in, and I later met Jones' boss who thanked me. He shook up his staff for reporting what they thought he wanted hear rather than the actual situation.

**GEORGE P. WATERS**

412 RICE HOPE DRIVE  
MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464  
TELEPHONE 843-881-8021

November 6, 1998

Mr. Bob Thompson  
7448 E. 68th Place  
Tulsa, OK 74133

This letter was first included in the Winter 1998 issue of the Item. Due to the problems with that issue some of you may not have received the letter. The letter contains information of interest, so it is included in this issue.

Dear Bob,

Well when we returned from perhaps the most fulfilling and enjoyable experience of our lives, Martha and I hit the road running to get the 1999 reunion underway. We had so much fun and learned so much that I do not think we can compete with Las Vegas, but we will offer what we have and hope that all will enjoy it. Alan's effort was the best and if we can get close, we will feel good. As Martha says, "he will be a very difficult act to follow."

As it stands now, after taking all the information sent by many as to dates of conflict, we have settled on October 20 (Wed) thru October 24(Sun). This gives the flyers the Sat. stay over and we have a Holiday Inn which is most willing to give a good room rate (\$89.00) for the duration.

We will be staying in Mount Pleasant, which sits just across the Cooper River from Charleston. This way we are not among the tourists and tee shirt crowd, but there will be easy transportation to the specific areas of interest/shopping available for those in their free time.

I am enclosing a work up of thoughts we have had, but it is no where in a final form. I intend to get more options and then poll the members as to the likes etc.

That brings me to a question, how do you do your mailing and could we get your list? If it is on computer disc, that would be great. I can get it copied to a disc mine could read. If you would get that to me I'd appreciate it!

Back to our first visit. You do not know how wonderful it was to meet all of you. I came home proud and aware of what heroes you each were. My Dad's talks of your life really came to bear on me, and I must say that this visit with you all really has made me up my standards of living, giving and awareness rise up. The comradeship you have among yourselves is to be truly respected by each person who is so fortunate to meet you. I can never thank you for the opportunity and blessing you bestowed on me and my wife, Martha.

As my Dad would say, "Gentleman, I salute you"

Thank you again for the opportunity you gave me.

Sincerely yours,

  
George P. Waters

SOME PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ABOUT CHARLESTON IN 1999

**OFLAG 64 FESTIVITY PLAN**

**DAY 1: 10:00 am** ----Arrival/Registration

**WED 4:00 pm**-- Hospitality room opens

Dinner on your own/ or possibly BBQ in back./ Oyster Roast

**DAY 2: 8:30**--- Continental Breakfast

**THUR**

10:00---Posting of the colors

Followed by:

Business meeting

presentation of your visit to Charleston.

Noon: Activities begin--

Optional tours of town, gardens, Patriots Point etc.

6:00pm Dinner cruise

10:00 Return to Hotel

**DAY 3: Breakfast on your own**---

**FRI**

10:00am (possibly a speaker- Gen Signius, Sen McCain, etc.

12:00 noon---Busses to Citadel depart for

Lunch with Corps (I hope)

View Campus/exhibits/museum

3:00 Parade

5:00pm Return to hotel

5:30 pm Bar opens on back deck/ hospitality room etc

6:00 Bus to Serenade/dinner ???

**DAY 4: Breakfast on your own.**

**SAT**

Free day on the town etc.

(Optional) Sumter Tour

Patriots Point

Boone Hall

Gardens etc....

5:00 Cash Bar opens( paid for by us)

6:00 Farewell Dinner and auction/

music of a light sort...

**DAY 5: 9:am Full breakfast followed by FAREWELL SERVICE**

**SUN AND retirement of the colors**

**NOTHING IS IN STONE...**

OFLAG POD



Alan Dunbar sent this. It looks like we got a real bargain on our hotel at Las Vegas

# RIO CAPTURES 'BEST VALUE' AWARD

**The hotel-casino wins travel magazine honors for the second straight year.**

Review-Journal

For the second year in a row, the Rio has been recognized as the "Best Value in the World" by Travel & Leisure Magazine's annual reader's survey of hotels and cities.

The off-Strip hotel is the only U.S. property to have ever received the distinction two years running.

The Rio was ranked first in the category "Best Hotel in the World, Less than \$200 a Night."

The magazine also recognized the

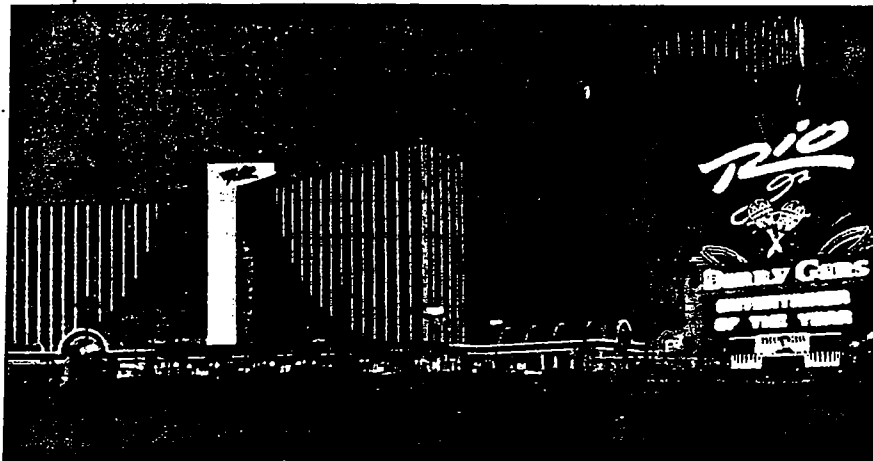
Rio as one of the "Best Overall Hotel Values in the World" and one of the "Best Hotels in the Continental United States."

"We are extremely gratified to once again be honored by such a prestigious recognition," Rio President John Lipkowitz said in a news release.

The travel publication's third annual poll is based on a survey distributed to a random selection of the magazine's subscribers.

The awards will be featured in the publication's March edition, set to hit the stands within the next two weeks.

The Rio is a wholly owned subsidiary of Harrah's Entertainment Inc., and has about 2,500 suites and 120,000 square feet of gaming space featuring about 2,500 slot machines



Review-Journal file photo

The Rio hotel-casino on Flamingo Road has benefited from its impersonator-headliner Danny Gans, an expansion project that added Las Vegas' tallest hotel tower, a free indoor carnival-themed show and a diverse group of customers that includes both tourists and locals.

and 100 table games.

Since 1995, the Rio has been recognized by the Zagat Survey as the "Best Overall Hotel" in Las Vegas, as well as providing the city's "Best Service," "Best Food" and "Best

Accommodations."

The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences also has honored the Rio year after year with the "Five Star Diamond Award," the only casino resort to be so honored.

## SOME PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ABOUT SPOKANE IN 2001

As for the plans for 2001, I thought it would be better to headquarter in one of the better hotels in downtown Spokane. Price is one consideration. But transportation is another. Most of the major airlines land at Spokane International. For those who prefer the train, Amtrak comes right in to downtown. Interstate I90 is the major east-west route through the city

The downtown area is being completely renovated with new buildings, skywalks, cinemas, malls, etc., to be completed by 2000. Spokane Falls and Riverside park are beautiful sights and are right downtown.

We have museums, galleries, Manito Gardens, and The Best of Broadway at the Met to see. If a major event is scheduled at the Veteran's Sports Arena during our reunion, it, also is a hop, skip, and jump from downtown, with a trolley shuttle bus on constant schedule.

We have the greatest conglomeration of hospital facilities in the northwest and the VA hospital in north Spokane is easily accessible.

Then too, we would be only minutes away from fine restaurants. For those who have exotic palates they can get German, Italian, Cajun, Mexican, Japanese, Chinese, Mongolian, in fact any kind of food you imagine.

As for the golfers, there are four city public golf courses and three county courses. For the affluent, they could tee off at the Coeur d'Alene resort course for \$100. It boasts the only floating green in the world. Some of the most famous golfers in the world have played Coeur d'Alene but they always come back to Spokane and favor Downriver or Indian Canyon, which is rated as one of the top 25 public golf courses in the U.S. by the Golf Digest.

If it's gambling our people want there are many casinos in Spokane and the Spokane tribal bingo/casino about 40 miles north of Spokane, it's every bit as lavish as any in Vegas.

Finally, we would be only 13 miles away from Fairchild AFB, the largest C-135 tanker base in the world. It is also home to the USAF Survival School, one of my favorite hangouts. They love us old X-POWs there. They say we're responsible for their existence and look forward to our visit. Incidentally, Evelyn Korber gave me a POW/MIA flag that Bill had and that flag flies from their flag pole under Old Glory every duty day. I hope our guys will want to visit the base.

As for the Coeur d'Alene resort, it is a 30 minute ride east of downtown Spokane. We could have our formal banquet there and also enjoy a dining cruise on the Mish-an-ouk or one of the other lake steamers and wander around the resort as well. But for variety I would opt for a Spokane base. However, it's up to our people. Your wish is my command.

Sincerely,

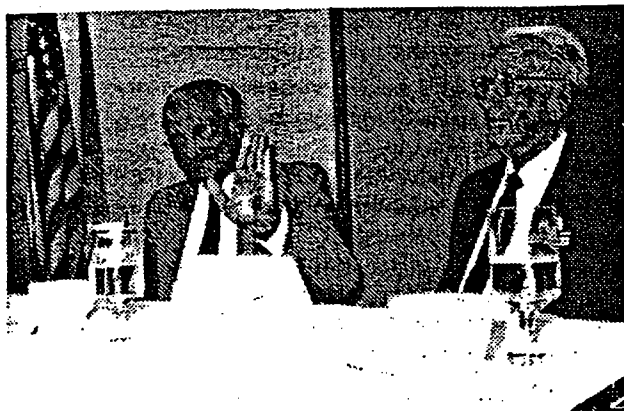


Herm Littman

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**ERIC A. ORSINI**  
**Deputy Assistant Secretary Of The**  
**Army (Logistics)**  
**SPEECH BEFORE FORMER POWs OF**  
**STALAG LUFT III**  
**23 MAY 1987**

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Eric A. Orsini, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Chaplain Daniels, Former POW

You asked me to discuss events leading up to the release of allied prisoners of war from the POW camps such as Moosburg. What I will relate are events as seen from my perspective which may differ from yours and really that's the story of war. There is no one story. I would venture to say there are over 450 stories of Stalag Luft III in this room.

First let me tell you something about the 14th Armored Division which was involved in these missions and which like many divisions in WW II had no previous war history; it was born of an America that had been attacked by the fascist states in Europe and Asia. The 14th was an armored division, made up of 3 combat commands (regimental equivalents) somewhat larger than a wing. Each command consisted of a tank battalion of 54 tanks, an armored artillery battalion, an armored infantry battalion, recon troops, medics and combat support and combat service support troops. It was a self-contained force that could fight for 1 to 3 days without resupply. It was manned by men from every state in the union. Its cadre consisted of a few West Point officers, reserve officers and in the main 90 day wonders like myself. The enlisted ranks had a sprinkling of regular army non commissioned officers but the rest were draftees.

The division had a life of three short years to include basic training and deployment, but in that short period the division's vehicles traveled an average of 2000 miles, used four and a half million

gallons of gasoline, fired approximately 4 million rounds of small arms ammo, its tank guns fired 36,000 rounds and its artillery pieces 120 rounds.

On the credit side it captured 64,000 German prisoners of war, 500 German tanks, 600 artillery pieces, shot down aircraft, destroyed factories, railroads, etc.

But we paid a price: 560 killed in action; 2000 + wounded; hundreds missing.

Perhaps our proudest achievement was the liberation of allied prisoners held by the enemy numbering some 200,000 not to mention 250,000 displaced persons and for this, the division earned the right to be called the liberators.

You asked that I tell the story of the assault on the Moosburg prison camp by the 47th Tank Battalion.

Here is that story as it unfolded on 29 April 1945, as I saw it and the best that I can reconstruct it.

It is 0600, the attack by Combat Command A is due to be resumed at this moment. The command post is located in Puttenhausen, Germany.

The 47th Tank Battalion is eight miles to the southeast where it halted operations at 2300 last night. The 68th Armored Infantry Battalion is three miles north of the command post, having run into hard resistance late the preceding day and having been ordered to halt in Mainburg to avoid running into a known night ambush.

Soon now, reports should arrive that the battalions are moving, and the guns of the 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion should be heard. At one minute before 0600 a strange group strode into the headquarters of Combat Command A to meet Brig. Gen. C. H. Karlstad, combat commander. It consisted of a German major, representing the commander of the Moosburg allied prisoner of war camp, Col. Paul S. Goode of the United States Army and a group commander of the British Royal Air Force, the senior American and British officers respectively, imprisoned in the Moosburg camp; a Swiss Red Cross representative; and Col. Lann, my battalion commander. The German major brought a written proposal from his commander for the creation of a neutral zone surrounding Moosburg, all movement of Allied troops in the general vicinity of Moosburg to stop while representatives of the Allied and German governments conferred on disposition of the Allied prisoners of war in that vicinity.

The German proposals were rejected and the party was given until 0900 to return to Moosburg and to submit an unconditional surrender offer—or receive the American attack at that hour; a CCA staff officer was dispatched to General Smith at 4th Division Headquarters.

The German command would not submit an unconditional surrender, instead German SS troops moved outside the city and set up a defense perimeter. They opened the fight and we were ready for them. Every tanker, infantryman, truck driver, clerks and cooks took up arms.

By 1030 the SS were lying dead in the fields and along the roads, grey-white faces and open mouths, twisted and staring sightlessly at the cold, blue sky above; and American medium tanks were roaring through the cobbled streets of the ancient city.

The 47th had split in two columns, one led by Maj. Kircher, our S-3, and the other by Col. Lann, our commander; and Gen. Karlstad went into the city with the 47th. Gen. Karlstad, the combat command commander, picked up a German officer as guide, and with Lieut. Joseph P. Luby took off for the prison camp proper.

The peep mounted a .30 caliber machine gun; as it swung up, there were several score armed German guards outside. Luby

rolled into their midst, his peep stopped, and with his hand on the gun called: "Achtung!" The group surrendered.

General Smith, the division commander, arrived at the camp shortly thereafter; an American flag was raised at a church steeple of all places.

Official estimates of the total Allied prisoners freed at Moosburg were 110,000, including an estimated 30,000 Americans, officers and men. Besides a series of seven prisoner of war camps, the division captured a German garrison of 6000 men at Moosburg.

Once the sharp, pitched battle by the SS was over, the German defenses crumbled. The 600-man 47th Tank Battalion took 2,000 prisoners; the 600-man 94th Reconnaissance Squadron took 2,000 more. Division total for the day was set at 12,000.

Scenes of the wildest rejoicing accompanied the tanks as they crashed through the double 10-foot wire fences of the prison camps. There were Norwegians, Brazilians, French, Poles, Dutch, Greeks, Rumanians, Bulgars. There were Americans, Russians, Serbs, Italians, New Zealanders, South Africans, Australians, British, Canadians—men from every nation fighting the Nazis. There were officers and men. Twenty-seven Russian generals, sons of four American generals. There were men and women in the prison camps—including three Russian women doctors. There were men of every rank and every branch of service, there were war correspondents and radio men.

Around the city were thousands of slave laborers, men and women.

All combined to give the 14th Armored Division the most incredible welcome it ever received. The tanks were finally slowed to five miles an hour as they went through the camps—the press of men in front of them was so great. Men, some of them prisoners five years, some American Air Corps men prisoners three years, cried and shouted and patted the tanks.

"You damned bloody yanks, I love you!" shouted a six foot four Australian and threw his arms around my driver.

A weary bearded American paratrooper climbed on a tank and kissed the tank commander. Tears streamed from his cheeks. The women had flowers, and they threw the flowers on the tanks and in the peeps. Italians and Serbs, tired and drawn, jammed around the vehicles, eagerly thrusting out their hands to touch their liberators, weeping.

An American Air Corps Lieutenant kissed a tank.

"God damn, do I love the ground forces," he said.

"You were a long time coming, but now you are here!"

There were no words to express the feelings of these men.

As the German guards were formed in columns of four and marched away, each man carrying two or three loaves of black bread, some of the tankers took the bread from them and tossed it over the fences to the Allied prisoners and they also tossed their own K rations and C rations.

There were strange reunions, TEC/5 Floyd C. Mahoney of C-Company freed his own son, a lieutenant in the Air Corps.

In roaming the town, the 47th and the 68th uncovered almost a score of arsenals, loaded with German machine guns, pistols, rifles, Panzerfausts, all sorts of small arms.

The tanks of S/Sgt. Claude E. Newton, S/Sgt. William T. Summers, Lieut. Hack and Lieut. Boucher led the chase through town; Moosburg was not all the battalion wanted. In fact the primary objective was a bridge across the Isar River that we wanted intact, but this bridge was blown as Sgt. Newton's tank moved into the first span. We knew you fellows were in the camps

OUT WE KICK SINCE WE SECURED THE BRIDGE

Among its own men liberated, the 47th found TEC/5 William Weichelt, Corp. Laufor Cobblestick, TEC/5 Edward Kulawiak, Corp. Gilbert Maines, PFC. John Nestorek, TEC/5 John Wertz, PFC. Verle A. Kruger, and Corp. Robert D. Hills.

German prisoners taken included boys of nine, fully uniformed and armed, and girls of 17 and 18—also uniformed and armed and capable of shooting you just as easy as a regular.

By night, the division was established along the Isar, and behind it were unbelievable scenes—ile long columns of German prisoners being marched to the rear, a light tank in front of the column and a light tank in the rear—each with its lights on full blast—and fields with 2000 Germans in a bunch, being guarded under lights, while among them lay the burned out German vehicles caught in the fight that morning, the German dead lying in grotesque positions as graves registration officers moved among them preparing for burial—all the bloody incredible litter of a battle-field just passed, under the bright lights of the overwatching vehicles.

And through the streets roamed streams of Allied prisoners newly freed and not quite sure what they wanted to do, but wanting to do something.

They broke into liquor—schnapps and champagne and cognac and wine—cellars and kitchens and wine shops and warehouses.

They got into food—chickens and pigs and lambs and geese, potatoes and eggs and ham and bread—in pantries and kitchens and living rooms and stores.

There was rape that night and pillage, and plain and fancy robbery, and the German civilians hid indoors. (To my knowledge no Americans were involved.)

Through that seething jam the American Army was trying to move back more German prisoners of war, columns four men wide and half a mile long and at the same time arrange your trip home.

Up through the mad bacchanalia the combat troops were trying to move, tanks and endless lines of silent infantrymen from the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion, faces set and hardly seeing the weaving scene about them, eyes straight ahead and with the trick men have who are going into combat of catching their lower lip and holding it caught between their teeth.

The dying nation dissolved into a snarling, giggling montage of human shapes, like a color fantasy on a movie screen where the eye is not able to see nor to understand, but only to snatch at endlessly shifting swirling jumbles of shapes of the wildest human emotions.

British ex-prisoners of war rode bicycles through the towns—freed prisoners took most of the bicycles and motorcycles and autos with which Germany was so well supplied. Slave laborers, men and women stood by every road, making a "V" with their fingers and grinning and throwing flowers.

"Endlich frei, enlich frei," said one, and a private first class of the French army introduced himself and gravely said: "It is very fine that our governments understand each other, and our generals and ministers, but I would like to tell all the American Privates First Class that I am eternally indebted to them and eternally grateful."

The next day, the 47th and the 68th established bridge heads across the Isar at Moosburg, still encountering small arms, tank and mortar fire, falling in the town; the 998th Treadway Bridge Company (once part of the battalion) put in a bridge over the Isar River and General Patton visited your compound.

RZM Imports of Southbury, CT, an importer and distributor of military history books and periodicals, has expressed an interest in attending our reunion next fall in Charleston and talking to our men about their experiences. They are the company that imported the magazine "After the Battle" that contained the very detailed description of "Task Force Baum" that was available at Las Vegas. They mentioned that they might possibly be interested in preparing a television documentary like those shown on "The History Channel" using first person accounts of the happenings. They are on the mailing list to receive issues of the Item.

They were told they would be welcome to come to our reunion.

They may be reached at:

RZM Imports  
P.O. Box 995  
Southbury, CT 06488  
Pho. 1-203-264-0774

A man in Tulsa returned to his car in the parking lot and found the following message on his windshield.

I parked next to you (gray van) & noticed you were an Ex-POW. I just wanted to tell you "Thank you so much for your sacrifice in service of our country. May the Lord continue to watch over you & your family."

Thank you again & may you have a truly Christ centered Christmas,  
Libby Jeffers

## Branson salutes veterans more than just once a year



DEAR  
ABBY

**Dear Abby:** In Branson, Mo., in the heartland of America, we embrace patriotism. Not only does our community host the nation's largest Veterans Day celebration — Veterans Homecoming — we honor veterans every day. Our Fourth Annual Homecoming (Nov. 5-11) was attended by more than 25,000 veterans, and we spared no effort to make that week

of celebration even more memorable than in years past.

Abby, the Branson Veterans Task Force is a nonprofit organization that creates events honoring veterans year-round. Among the major events we have planned for 1999: Branson Remembers — a Memorial Day

tribute; an old-fashioned patriotic Fourth of July celebration for veterans and families; special memorial services for POW/MIA Day; a ceremony to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the VFW; the annual memorial service for the Four Chaplains of the USS Dorchester; and a ceremony during which we place the flag at half-staff to honor veterans of the Korean War. And, of course, there will be the Fifth Annual Veterans Homecoming, Nov. 5-11, 1999. These are just a sample, in addition to numerous military reunions and conventions throughout the year.

Celebrated entertainers who make Branson their home will participate in the special events and services, and give of their time and talents — Wayne Newton, Tony Orlando, the Lennon Sisters, Mel Tillis, the Osmonds, Jim Stafford and Box Car Willie, to name only a few. They enthusiastically join in the programs to let our veterans of all conflicts know they are truly honored guests.

Our goal is not only to honor those who

have served, but also to educate our youth regarding the sacrifices veterans have made to preserve our freedom. An ongoing educational program has been created in our schools that includes many Medal of Honor recipients as guest speakers.

So please, Abby, convey to veterans everywhere that Branson, Mo., honors American veterans EVERY DAY! — Debbie Ikerd, Executive Director

**Dear Debbie:** Armed conflicts are painful to remember. As time has passed, many Americans have forgotten what was accomplished because of the sacrifices of the members of our armed forces to ensure our comfort, freedom and well-being. However, we must never forget — or allow our children to forget — our courageous veterans, both on the battlefield and behind the lines. This includes not only those of World War II and the Cold War that dragged on for decades, but also those of Korea, Vietnam, Grenada,

Panama and Desert Storm.

To all the members of the Branson Veterans Task Force: I salute you for keeping the memory alive. It's a pleasure to publicize your efforts on behalf of all veterans.

**Dear Abby:** I am 11 years old and have read your column for the past three years. Well, I have just been through thank-you card season again. It can be frustrating, but I found out that instead of sending a card, you can give the person a phone call. It's less frustrating than writing, and you get to hear the person's voice. Bye! — S.H. in Jeffersonville, Ind.

**Dear S.H.:** I disagree! A phone call can come at an inconvenient time — and then it becomes an interruption. Also, a thank-you note can be read, re-read and saved — and many become treasured keepsakes.

Abby Van Buren is a columnist with Universal Press Syndicate.

NOTICE

A roster of all the men that entered Oflag 64 is available. This roster lists the men as they entered the camp and was done by hand with either a pencil or fountain pen. Somebody had the presence of mind to grab the roster as they left the camp in Jan 1945 and bring it home with him. The roster lists the men in the groups that they arrived with. The first half of the first page and the last half of the last page are as shown below. "One picture is worth a thousand words". If you would like to have a copy of the complete roster send a check for \$10.00 made out to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail it to the Editor.

CAPT NAME	GERMAN NAME	RANK	A.S.N.	P.O. No.	ORGANIZATION	WHERE CAPTURED	DATE ARRIVED
Drass	THOMAS D.	Column					6 June 45
Waters	John K.	sr. Cpl.	0-11971	4161	1st AR. INF.	TUNISIA	14-3-43
Alcar	James D.	sr. Cpl.	0-18111	4157	1st AR. INF.	TUNISIA	15-3-43
Garrison	Louis	sr. Cpl.					
Onnes	Walter M.	sr. Cpl.	0-314088	4203	351 9 D	Bleib/Berda	28-3-43
Jacobs	Paul G.	Capt.	Transferred to		German Army	near China	
Smith	Francis M.	Capt.					
Lanning	Tony B.	Capt.					
Fuchs	Maximo W.	Capt.	0-306227	9201	162 ID	El Guettou, Tun.	29-3-43
Campano	Gene D.	1st Lt.					

West	Robert	Pvt	34756179	081070	101 5 D	Germany	1-12-44	31-1-45
Whitman	Harrison S.	1st Lt	07295865	313579	422E 106 D	Schöndorf, Ger.	21-12-44	11-1-45
Wojas	Stanley E.	PFC	3039141	080452	26E 1 D	Murde, Ger.	28-11-44	31-12-44
Worrell	Charles S.	Pvt.	42141826	080468	413E 104 D	Inden, Ger.	24-11-44	31-12-44
Yours	John R.	1st Lt	07031608	138889	1st Co. 2nd Ar. Div.	Italy	4-9-44	1-1-45
Zarnstog	John M.	Capt	0-171818	313371	365 7th Div.	Sastogne Bel	19-2-44	11-1-45
Filden	John T.	1st Lt	0-1237490		110E 23 D	Luxemburg	20-12-44	
Matthew	Arthur E.	Capt	0-39407	3477	111E 45 D	Aix-la-Chapelle	49-4-43	2-4-43
Weiner	Robert C.	Capt	0-1251957	3350	334E 41 D	Geilenkirchen	10 "	7 "

Mr. Robert T. Thompson  
74458 E. 68<sup>th</sup> Place  
Tulsa, OK 74133

Dear Mr. Thompson:

January 27, 1999

On behalf of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies, I'd like to extend our thanks and appreciation for your donation of "All Those Brave Young Men." This moving tribute to the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion from the American POWs in Oflag 64 will make a fine contribution to our archives. Your name and Oflag 64 were very familiar to me when I read your letter, and I looked in our archives and found that you had sent us articles and information via Stephen Ambrose's publisher in September. Thank you for your continued support of our archives.

Best wishes and regards,

  
Annie Wedekind  
Assistant Director



ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Route 800 • Andersonville, Georgia 31711 • 912-924-0343

2/4

7/25/99

I want to let you know that I have not forgotten your request for information about donations. My counterpart at Jimmy Carter NHS and I are working together on a newspaper-type article for the local media. As soon as I have enough material, I will tailor it for you & send a copy. In the meantime,



National Park Service

anyone can call me directly or write. Thanks for your patience! Reinvest

-Eric

# T A P S



In Memory Of  
*Ethelene Moore Garris*

Date of Birth  
April 4, 1920  
*Pageland, South Carolina*

Date of Death  
December 11, 1998  
*Pineburst, North Carolina*

Place and Time of Service  
2:00 PM Tuesday December 15, 1998  
*Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church  
330 S. May Street  
Southern Pines, North Carolina*

Presiding  
*Dr. Grady Perryman*

Powell Funeral Home  
and Crematory  
Southern Pines, N. C.

## Ethelene M. Garris

Ethelene Moore Garris, 78, of Pinehurst, died Friday (Dec. 11, 1998) at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A memorial service in celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines with Dr. Grady Perryman officiating.

Mrs. Garris was born April 4, 1920 to the late Julian E. and Pauline Rayfield Moore of Pageland, S.C. The family settled in Morven, where the children grew up. Mrs. Garris attended Flora MacDonald College in Red Springs and then embarked upon a civil service career.

Following her 1946 marriage to Herbert Lundy Garris of Raleigh, she continued her work at various defense agencies while assisting her husband in his career as a military officer and accompanying him to his duty assignments in Europe, the Caribbean, and the United States. They retired to their home in Pinehurst in 1981.

Surviving, in addition to her husband, are her daughters, Anna Garris of Fairfax, Va. and Patrekte of Brookeville, Md. and a sister, Mildred Monroe of Chapel Hill.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the Morven Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 274, Morven 25119.

Powell Funeral Home and Crematory of Southern Pines is serving the family

Bill Kleysteuber sends notice of the death of his father Col. William R. Kleysteuber on Sunday Jan. 17, 1998.

Col. Kleysteuber was a Capt. 16 Eng., 1st Armrd Div. and was taken prisoner in North Africa. He returned home after the war via Luckenwald.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, sons Bill and Bob, two daughters Peggy Tims and Sandy Yeates along with nine grandchildren.

Margaret may be reached at their home-411 Bamboo Lane  
Largo, FL 34640

Bill may be reached at-home pho. 703-356-2580  
-work pho. 202-481-3847

We have lost one of our comrades. He will be missed.

Don Wernette's wife passed away June 25, 1998. God Bless Good friend





Some sad news from Roy and Helen Chappelle. They wrote and said Bob Oshlo of Joplin, Mo died on Friday Feb 5, 1999 of cancer. Services were held at Joplin on Wednesday Feb. 10, 1999. Our sympathies to Evelyn and the family. Bob was one of the original group that entered Oflag 64 and was one of the most faithful members to attend the reunions.

## Tedeschi, the man, recalled as person with a good heart

By Allison Cohen  
STAFF WRITER

Ralph D. Tedeschi died last Wednesday after a brief bout with cancer. While many newspaper accounts of his life focused on his business successes, Norwell Council on Aging Executive Director Rosemary O'Connor summed up the man the way he'd like to be remembered.

"He was a good man with a good heart," she said.

Tedeschi was a kind, generous and warm-hearted man, who readily and regularly opened his door, his heart and his pocketbook for the benefit of others.

Tedeschi's hilltop estate, Tara, was the site of Norwell's centennial ball in 1988. Lauryn Mittleman was just 13 at the time, but remembers handing out fans at the door. Her mother, Judy, was one of many volunteer organizers for the event.

"Mr. Tedeschi helped us with the balloons," she recalled. After the event, Tedeschi sent her mother a long, handwritten thank you note and enclosed photographs he had taken with his own camera during the events. "Can you imagine that? It was so nice of him."

Tedeschi also made his summer home in Marshfield available for the council of aging picnics every year, a major event in the social calendar for many Norwell elders.

Monsignor Eugene McNamara of St. Mary's of the Nativity in Scituate Harbor recalled Tedeschi fondly.

"I got to know him through the Cardinal Cushing School," McNamara said. "He was very, very generous to the Catholic Church and to



Ralph D. Tedeschi and his wife Madeline.

every church for that matter. Catholic, Protestant, Jewish — he was very generous and giving to them all."

Cardinal Cushing School and Training Center in Hanover and the children and adults with developmental disabilities it serves held a special place in Tedeschi's heart.

Leonard Florence, a former board member at Cardinal Cushing and current chairman of the board at Syratec in Boston, remembered his

friend's commitment to the school.

"Ralph Tedeschi was very dedicated to the children of Cardinal Cushing," Leonard said. "He worked tirelessly to help make their lives better and in doing so he was an inspiration to us all."

Tedeschi's inspiration also stretched to the Cardinal whose name the school bears.

"The late cardinal just idolized this guy," McNamara recalled.

Tedeschi may have lived in a mansion high on a hill, but he traced his

land at the time and his father was a shoe sample salesman. Illness forced Angelo Tedeschi to take time off from work, and another relative suggested he sell cheese and other groceries on consignment. The little basement store filled a big need among the growing Italian community in Rockland, Tedeschi said.

Tedeschi's early experience with a food market and his prisoner-of-war camp experience combined to provide the inspiration that led to an empire of supermarkets, convenience stores, drug stores and shopping malls.

Tedeschi wound up in the camp when his convoy of Jeeps found a group of Germans where they expected to find the American army. After a brief fire fight, the out-numbered Americans surrendered, but not before Tedeschi was wounded.

Tedeschi described his wound as the first of several pieces of bad luck that avoided being worse by a mere matter of moments.

"I was reaching for my helmet at the time," he said. "A few seconds later and it might have been a fatal wound."

into the woods," Tedeschi remembered. "We were on the tracks saying our 'Hail, Marys' and 'Acts of Contrition.'"

Eventually, Tedeschi wound up in that prison camp, where he remained interned until January 1945. What he remembers most about those prison camp days was the unending hunger.

"I don't think there's anything worse than hunger," he said. "Not just for a day or a week, but on and on."

At the first opportunity, Tedeschi and two other American lieutenant escaped into the countryside, beginning their long journey to freedom that involved hiding out with Polish farm families, riding coal tenders to Warsaw, being sent to the Russian front, then shipped to Port Said, Egypt for delousing and treatment and then sent on to Naples, Italy and finally home to Boston.

As he neared his 84th year Tedeschi said he was proud of the fact he could still fit into his old uniform. In May 1997, the governor finally got around to giving him the Purple Heart he earned the hard way. Tedeschi wore it proudly.

But he also treasured the medals o

**"He was very, very generous to the Catholic Church and to every church for that matter. Catholic, Protestant, Jewish — he was very generous and giving to them all."**

MONSIGNOR EUGENE MCNAMARA

ST. MARY OF THE NATIVITY  
IN SCITUATE



# T A P S

This information was from the 1939 issue of the USMA Howitzer



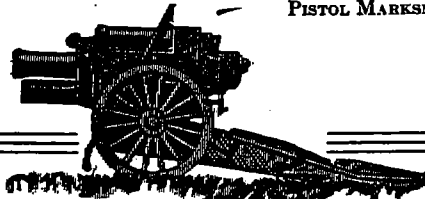
**JOHN WILLIAM DOBSON**

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA *Third District, Virginia*

A GIANT figure blotted out a section of the cold gray walls, a brazen voice pierced the din of the messhall, an eternal ego stood with both feet planted, daring the gods and the Tactical Department, and Dobson, beloved of the maidens, walked among us again. And afterward remembering "the Dobber," what shall we recall—the savoir-faire, the shoulders, the charm, the wit, the voice? Jack goes on sublimely indifferent to the madding crowd and with the firm conviction that "damned yankee" is one word.

"Dobber"

- CORPORAL (3)
- COLOR SERGEANT (2)
- SERGEANT (1)
- FENCING (4, 3)
- FOOTBALL (4, 3, 2, 1)
- TRACK (4, 2, 1), NUMERALS (4)
- BASEBALL (3, 2) MAJOR "A" (3)
- BASKETBALL (3, 1)
- CHOIR (4, 3, 2)
- HOP MANAGER (4, 3)
- SKI CLUB
- PISTOL MARKSMAN



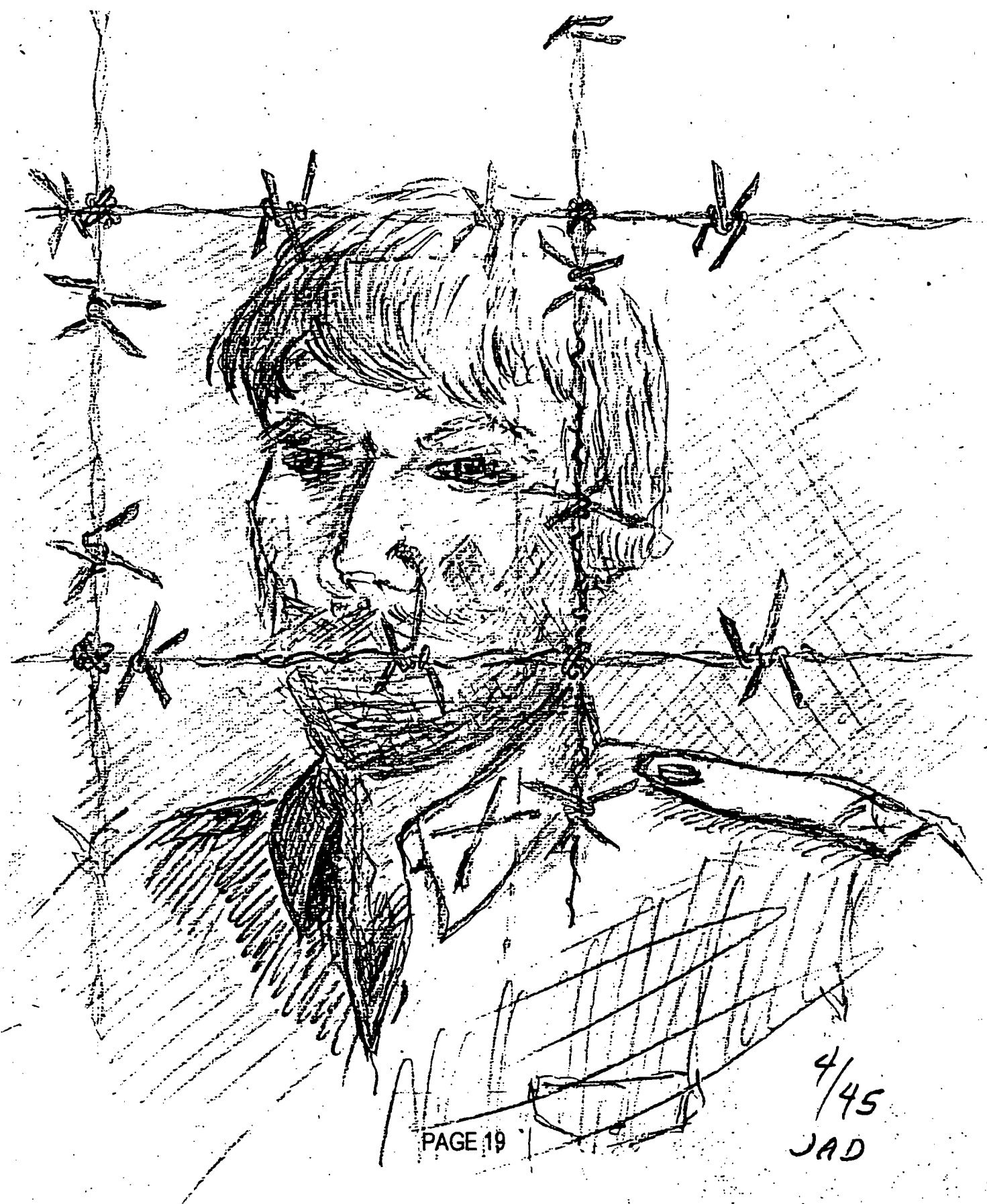
7.6 INCH HOWITZER

This information was from the 1993 Register of Graduates of USMA

11448 John William Dobson  
B-VA 4Oct13: Cav. CO 1RangerBn Italy 44(SS-CI-2PH): POW  
44-45(BSM): SocSciDept 48-49: CGSC 50: USFA 50-53: I&F Div  
OSD 53-56: NWC 57: Hq CCA 3AD 60-62: AsstCmtd TAPS 62-63:  
CG Ant Cmd 63-65(LM): DptyDir J3 JCS 65: Ret 67 BG(DSM):  
Supt CulverMA 67-70: AthlDir SeaPinesAcad 75: 3130BermudaVill  
AdvanceNC27006.

Bob Cheatham passed on information that Gen Dobson died in Dec 1998

ONE OF JAY DRAKE'S FRIENDS LOOKING THROUGH THE WIRE



4/45  
JAD

1294 Master Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120-2228  
Telephone: (716) 693-3686  
September 26, 1998

Post Oflag 64 Item  
Bob Thompson, Editor  
7448 E. 68th Place  
Tulsa, OK 74133

Dear Bob:

I just sent a note to Joe Seringer with my contribution to the postage fund. It seem like quite a long time has passed since I last sent in a contribution.

I do enjoy getting the "Post Oflag 64 Item" and reading about the men who were in the prisoner of war camp with me. I have to confess that with age my memory is not what it used to be and I don't recall many of the names that I read about. In the Fall 1998 edition, however, one name does stand out, Reid Ellsworth. I first met Reid at Spoleto, Italy, where the Germans had a temporary camp and from which they shipped us by rail up into Germany. Reid and I became close friends. We both managed to escape from the Germans while being marched back into Germany ahead of the advancing Russian Army. We both were picked up by the Russians and took the arduous trip down to Odessa, on the Black Sea. After that we wentour different ways and we lost contact with one another

When I joined the Oflag 64 group, my name was printed in the ITEM as a new member. At the time Reid and his wife, Lela, were missionaries for their church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day-Saints, in Italy. Reid wrote to me from there and we began a correspondence until he informed me that he was returning to the U.S.A. and that his daughter lived in Binghamton, N.Y. and that he would be visiting her on his way home. Then I contacted his daughter to see if I could arrange a meeting with them and perhaps have dinner together when they returned. She called me and said that they would be visiting Palmyra, New York, the place where their church was founded. We made arrangements to meet in the Visitors Center in Palmyra. On the appointed day, my wife, Lillian, and I drove to Palmyra. After arriving I had to use the rest room and when I came out a man was approaching me whom I recognized immediately as Reid, after about 40 years of separation. We had a very enjoyable day together touring all of the historic sites in Palmyra. Reid and I lagged behind the group, chatting like magpies and recalling many of our experiences. We later had dinner together and then went our separate ways.

As you know, Reid and Lela live in Arizona and so we can't see one another as often as we might like to, but we correspond. Recently Reid wrote a book titled, "The Reid F. Ellsworth Story", "An Account of War and Divine Interposition". It recounts our experiences and tells of Reid's heroic efforts after his airplane was shot down in Italy and he lived with the Italian people. It is a remarkable account of one man's experiences of surviving the aftermath of being shot down and then being captured by the enemy, his life in the POW camp and then escaping and making his way to freedom through Russia. Reid is still active and on his 80th birthday he took a free fall jump from an airplane and has the pictures to prove it. I am proud to be able to call Reid my friend.

I thought you might like a little more information about Reid and his experiences.

Sincerely yours

*Dick*

Richard M. Manton