

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

SPRING 2000

LAUGHLIN, NV 2000

Duane is making headway on the next reunion in Laughlin. The RAMADA EXPRESS is the place and Oct 1, 2000 to Oct 4, 2000 is the time. The agenda, registration form and other information is enclosed.

It appears now that the best way to get there is to go to Las Vegas and catch a shuttle bus from there to Laughlin. A schedule for the bus is enclosed. More information on travel arrangements will be supplied as they become available.

Pat Waters and Robert Galloway returned from their sentimental journey to Germany and Poland the second week in Feb. and will have lots of stories to tell next fall in Laughlin.

They took video cameras and still cameras with them and have lots of pictures.

They visited Hammelburg, Oflag 64, Schubin, and several of the towns we went through on that long, cold march in 1945.

SPOKANE, WA 2001

Herm is working on arrangements for the 2001 reunion in Spokane. He has contacted hotels, but has made no definite commitment yet. He will keep us posted from time to time

COLUMBUS, GA 2002

No word yet on arrangements for 2002

PUBLICATIONS

POSTAGE FUND DONORS
Spring 2000 to Winter 2000 issue

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
Original Roster-Oflag 64 \$10.00
Tribute to TF Baum (Paperback) \$15.00
Hammelburg Roster \$ 7.50
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 Make check payable to and send to:
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By SC NARA Date 2/1/80

United States **SECRET**
British **SECRET**

EX Report No. 617
Date 17 May 45

SECRET
By Auth. A. C./S., G-2
Date
Initials

WAR DEPARTMENT
War Department General Staff G-2
Military Intelligence Service
Washington

Prepared by
CPM BRANCH

..... ESCAPE) GOODE, Paul R., Col., O-8651, 175th Inf.
..... EVASION) (Name, rank, ASN, arm of service, squadron, group, or unit)
..... LIBERATION) From Stalag 7A, MOOSBURG, GERMANY
Camp and/or country

Missing in action 13 Jun 44
Date of capture 13 Jun 44
Reported P/W 21 Aug 44
Liberated 29 Apr 45
~~Escaped~~
Rejoined Allied forces 29 Apr 45
At Moosburg, Germany
Previous interrogation None

Arrived in USA 16 May 45, Washington, DC
Home address 120 N. 12th St., Corvallis, Oregon
Age 53
Length of Service 31 years.

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United States **SECRET**
British **SECRET**

S E C R E T

EX-Report No. 617

Prepared by MIS-X Section, CPM Branch

Liberation From STALAG 7A
MOOSBURG, GERMANY

COL. PAUL R. GOODE

175th Infantry

Capture

On the night of 12 and 13 June 1944, with authority of the division commander subject crossed the VIRE canal with the "D" company of his regiment with instructions to clear up a five-mile stretch of woods and occupy two towns. They crossed the canal about four miles from the regimental headquarters in the vicinity of LISON, FRANCE. Previously two companies had attempted this on the 12th of June, and they were driven back. The division commander said to make the attempt anyway, and Col. GOODE said it was hopeless, but the commander said that was all right. Instead of going right to the high ground opposite the canal, subject took the company back across the canal in daylight and marched into the woods and held them there until dark. After dark they moved on along the canal bank. They ran into one outpost where they killed all but one man who got away. About a half a mile from the first village they ran into what subject thought was a rather weak opposition and he told the company commander to attack at once which he later did. The best information that subject could get was that it was a battalion of the 17th Panzer Grenadier Division which had been sent in to reinforce the local garrison, and the fight lasted until about 2100 hours. By this time Col. GOODE had expended all the machinegun ammunition, all the mortar ammunition and most of the rifle and carbine ammunition, and he then surrendered. He had at that time 28 wounded men and 20 unwounded out of approximately 300.

Germans Moved Americans Back

The Germans moved the Americans out a distance of a few miles to what was apparently regimental headquarters, and from there they were taken to a headquarters in the vicinity of ST. LO on 13 June. Subject was then moved to a cage at CHALONS-sur-VIRE, where there were about 800 prisoners,

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By 3C NARA Date 2/1/80

S E C R E T

most of them from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, and the conditions at that place were extremely bad. There had been no food but the Germans finally arrived at a point where they killed one beef a day for about 800 men, and there was some cabbage for soup. There were about 125 aluminum pans which were passed from hand to hand for mess kits.

From there subject was taken individually to corps headquarters where the interrogating officer, who was a judge from COLOGNE in civilian life, greeted him with his name and organization which he had not disclosed. The address of his family was known because it appeared on his identification disc which they examined. Subject told the interrogating officer that he intended to tell him nothing, and he said they had ways of making him talk. Subject said nothing. Actually the conversation was rather general, and concerned conditions in GERMANY.

Taken to Rennes

Subject was then taken by ambulance a distance of about 30 miles to the first really organized prison camp at RENNES where he found about a thousand British and American enlisted men, and at the time that he arrived there, which was about 18 June, about three American officers and 16 British and Canadian officers, including a lieutenant commander from the Fleet Arm of the Royal Air Force. The number of officers increased gradually to 50, and the enlisted men to perhaps 1,300, including both British and Canadian. The camp was very badly run, and the food was limited to a weak tea in the morning and for dinner one or two slices of bread and a soup made largely from badly spoiled potatoes and what vegetables the Ps/W could find from the French colonials who had their stuff in stock since 1940. The name of the commandant, subject does not know, nor was he ever able to find out. For several days there was no water as a result of the bombing of RENNES, and due to the fact that the Germans did not furnish water there was a great deal of sickness from men drinking water used for fire protection. There were no bathing facilities, and the sanitary conditions in the camp were extremely poor. There was no effort made to feed or house these men properly.

En route to the camp at RENNES, subject attempted to escape and after slipping out of the ambulance, he was physically held by enlisted men who were terrified that if he escaped the Germans would shoot them. By the time he had convinced them that he was a commissioned officer the chance was gone.

The Ps/W left RENNES about 5 July in two boxcars holding a total of 50 officers. There were about 1,300 British and American enlisted men on the train; the cars were crowded and practically all of the Ps/W had dysentery and many of them were wounded. It took them 23 days to get to CHALONS.

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S E C R E T

By SC NARA Date 7/1/10

S E C R E T

The officer in charge of that train was Oberstleutnant HUNTER. A man of about 45 years of age and apparently commissioned in the field artillery, he stated that he was a merchant from HAMBURG. The cars were kept locked the entire time, and only on one or two days, as a special concession, the doors were opened for perhaps a half an hour. The food varied; some days there was one-third of a loaf of bread, about a two-inch piece of sausage and a large bowl of exceedingly good soup, on other days there was no bread and no water. The cars were tightly sealed and while the officers themselves were not crowded, the condition of the men was extremely bad. There was no opportunity for exercise, and the only water anyone could get was that brought by guards once a day.

Some Escapes

During the trip four British officers escaped from the other officer's car, and the rest of the officers in that car were treated for the ensuing days much worse than previously. Subject also added that before they reached their destination the train was strafed once, but there were no casualties. They were also on the edge of a bombing, the nearest bomb falling about 100 yards away.

The Ps/R managed to loosen several boards in the car and although the Germans inspected the car daily they never saw the hole. Subject is very frank in saying that he ordered another officer to make this hole and he accepts full responsibility for it. Fifteen officers managed to escape out of this hole. The hole was rather small, and subject could not get through it. He went back to take off some clothes and the train stopped and he was there when the hole was discovered. Oberstleutnant HUNTER was very much excited and sent for an SS lieutenant who was aboard with two SS companies. They selected subject and four other officers to be shot. Col. GOODE spoke to them at some length and they started arguing among themselves and agreed to delay the execution. They took 20 officers from the other car and put them in with the officers in subject's car; then they mounted a machinegun and made them get down on the floor of the car. Any man that got up off the floor or spoke would be shot. In the car next to that of Col. GOODE, a French parachute sergeant was shot and killed for reaching up to an opening in the car to get a book he had left there. The name of the man responsible for this is not known, but he was an unteroffizier and a very voluble Nazi. The morning after the escape Col. GOODE was shot at from a distance of about ten feet by a German.

Train Attacked

That night the train was attacked either by some Free French or some of the 1,100 political prisoners who were with the train and got

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S E C R E T

By SC NARA Date 2/1/80

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loose. The Germans claimed to have killed a car load, but all subject knows is that he could see the fight that took place in all four corners of the train which lasted about an hour and a half. During that time the SS had other things to do than to execute the Ps/W. The conditions in that train generally speaking were by far the worst that Col. GOODE had experienced in the time that he was a prisoner, and he got off the train with snow white hair and weighing about 170 lbs. He thinks that a very definite effort should be made to have Oberstleutnant HUNTER find the guard who was responsible for killing this French sergeant.

Chalons - To Trier

The Ps/W arrived at CHALONS on 28 July. The place was an interrogation center, and it was run by a Major VON GOSWEIN who had been a prisoner of war in ENGLAND in the last war. Col. GOODE was in solitary for five days at CHALONS. Among the 18 other officers, there was no complaint about the treatment except that Ps/W were in solitary.

The Ps/W left CHALONS somewhere about the 3rd of August and subject's recollection is that there were 600 officers packed 50 to a car. Six days later they finally arrived at TRIER. The trip was extremely bad, and there were no toilet facilities except a can about the size of a #10 commercial can. The major difficulty was not so much in the packing of the cars, which was excessive, or the heat, but the fact that the trip which should have taken a day or so took six or seven days.

To Limburg

The Ps/W left TRIER very suddenly about 9 September. The parcels which they received were borrowed from the French or the Serbs as there were no American parcels there. The commandant borrowed them and issued the parcel during that month, and issued another parcel as the men got on the train. Subject has no complaint against the commandant at TRIER. The trip from TRIER to LIMBURG lasted only one day, and the Ps/W spent a relatively pleasant day on the train. Subject states he had a bag packed for an escape attempt, but unfortunately he could not make it. The map that he had concealed in his kit was found when he got to LIMBURG and caused considerable excitement and an interview with the commandant.

To Oflag 64

The Ps/W left LIMBURG, which was, subject thinks, Stalag 12A, to go to Oflag 64 which was the first officers' camp to which he was sent. Subject arrived there on 16 October.

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By SC NARA Date 2/1/17

S E C R E T

Evacuation from Schubin

The Russian advance caused the evacuation of Oflag 64, SCHUBIN, on 21 January. Col. GOODE left about 71 men in the hospital under Col. DRURY and those people have since been returned. There were four men in a tunnel there also. Unteroffizier KNORR, at SCHUBIN, is believed to have killed one, two or three British prisoners in 1940 and at one time did pull his pistol on an American officer and his presence in the camp was protested by Col. DRAKE, subject of R-Report No. 32.

Col. GOODE protested the march and delayed it as much as possible. The Ps/W then marched a distance of 360 miles over a period of 48 days under rather trying conditions. The weather was about ten below zero and there was about a foot of snow on the ground. Subject urged all the men to escape who had a chance to escape, and 241 were successful. Subject said that he governed escapes, because he believes in them, but when there was no chance for a man to live or make a successful escape, he did not let the man escape. When there was a 50-50 chance, he wanted him to take it. Col. GOODE had left Oflag 64 with 1300 men, and he had 490 left after the 48 days. He knew that 241 escaped, 100 were left at a prison camp near FLATOW, and the rest were sent on with guards to LUCKENWALDE. Col. GOODE left four officers at a Naval Station at SWINEMÜNDE of which Col. ALGER was one.

To Hammelburg

After the arrival at PARCHIM, the Ps/W were moved by train to HAMMELBURG. Oflag 13B, at HAMMELBURG, was commanded by a Major Gen. GOBEL. Col. GOODE's relations with him were by far the best that he established with any German officer that he came into contact with. He was an intelligent man, and he came to see the conditions in the camp (which were bad), but he had no hesitancy to reduce what he saw to writing. He said he would take the Ps/W's money and reinforce the ration if possible. He tried, but could not do it. When a small task force from the 4th Armored Division got to HAMMELBURG this man had an order to march the Ps/W. Subject talked him out of the marching for one day. He then said he had an order to move the camp. Subject said it was impossible to move, and he said he knew it was and asked subject for a protest. It was given to him, and he left two officers behind to protect and feed the Ps/W until the Americans got there. He asked Col. GOODE to look after his family which he was very glad to do. He took his guard company and went off to the flank. The only thing he said when the Americans were forced back the next day was that fortunes change. He was a major general, and he could not exercise as much authority as the average company commander in an American company, but subject states he did his duty as a soldier.

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1950 Declassification Authority Information - S E C R E T
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By 3C NARA Date 2/1/80

S E C R E T

Americans Arrive

About 3 April, a small task force consisting of a tank company and an infantry company from the 4th Armored Division came about 50 miles through the German lines to get the prisoners loose. The man who actually came into the camp was a 1st Lt. W. R. WHEELER, son of Major Gen. WHEELER. Col. GOODE told him he had 1291 officers and he said they had transportation to take them back. Actually they did not, but the Ps/W formed up and moved to the top of the hill. Col. GOODE divided the people into three groups, those who could not physically make it who went back to camp, those that could do it on foot, and those who had to ride. Out of 550 that tried it on foot, subject stated about 30 got through. Those that were to ride got on top of the tanks, but unfortunately a tank was lost before they got started. The group ran into strong opposition and lost another tank and lost some people. The company commander pulled up on the top of the highest hill about six miles from the camp and the thing smoldered had to Col. GOODE. The Americans had about 600 men and at the request of the tank commander every man that could be armed with any kind of a weapon was armed. Col. GOODE took the rest of the group back to camp. The Germans attacked and captured, killed or wounded the entire lot. The rest got back to camp and the people that decided they were too sick to march were marched by the Germans from HAMMELBURG past NURNBERG. Twenty-six had been killed and about 40 wounded by American bombs. Five or six hundred people who were with Col. GOODE were moved out by train to NURNBERG. They left HAMMELBURG at the request of Gen. KAFALAVITCH, chief of staff of the Serbian Army. American tanks were shooting into the Sorbian camp under misleading intelligence that it was a German camp, whereas in fact it was adjacent to a German camp.

To Moosburg

The group stayed at HAMMELBURG about a week, and then was marched to Stalag 7A, MOOSBURG. It took 15 days to cover about 90 miles. There was no particular attempt at control, and escape was extremely easy and many officers did escape and many more just wandered off to live on the country and were ultimately picked up by the SS. Subject stated he wanted to escape, but stayed with the column because he felt the continued presence of responsible people would avoid strong measures on the part of the Germans. Col. GOODE and the SBO, Group Capt. WILLETS, organized the camp at MOOSBURG. It was their intention not to move. When they were finally rescued by Combat Team A, of the 14th Armored Division under Gen. KARLSTAD and Gen. COOPER-SMITH, there were at that time about 30,000 prisoners behind the wire.

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**OFLAG 64
REUNION
2000
Ramada Express Casino
Laughlin, Nevada**

October 1, 2000

1200 hrs(12:00noon) Arrival/ Registration First Class Passenger Area

1400 hrs(2:00pm) Hospitality Room opens ????

1800 hrs(6:00pm) Reception/Social Hour - Hors-d'oeuvres - No Host Bar
Town Square or Band Stand

1900 hrs Dinner on your own

October 2, 2000

900 hrs (9:00am) Buffet Breakfast

1000hrs(10:00am) Opening ceremony with Posting of the Colors, Invocation and Welcoming
Remarks. Pavilion Area
Business Meeting to follow

1200 hrs(12:00 noon) Lunch on your own

1300 hrs(1:00pm) Activity - to be announced later.

All Day Hospitality Room will remain open.

October 3, 2000

Breakfast on your own

1000hrs(10:00am) Activity - to be announced later.

Lunch on your own

1600 hrs - 1800 hrs Banquet in Pavilion Area - Filet Mignon or Chicken

2000 hrs Show in Pavilion Area (to be announce later)

All Day Hospitality Room will remain open.

October 4, 2000

0900 hrs (9:00 am) Sit down breakfast (Pavilion Area)

1000 hrs (10:00am) Memorial Service followed by the Retirement of the Colors.

Have a safe trip home. Hope to see you all at our next Reunion.

REGISTRATION FORM
Oflag 64 Reunion 2000
Ramada Express Casino
Laughlin, Nevada
October 1 - 5, 2000

Name _____ Lady's Name _____

Guest's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Smoking _____ Non Smoking _____ King _____ 2 Beds _____ Handicapped _____

Other _____

Registration and Hotel fee: \$175.00 per person

This includes rooms and meals as indicated on agenda. Gambling and other activities are on your own.

Activity fees for trips etc. will be announced later as availability permits

Cut-off date for registration is September 1, 2000

Mail all registration forms and checks to: Oflag 64 Reunion 2000

Duane S. Kennedy
12073 N. Pebble Beach Ave.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3757
Phone (623) 977-0966
duane2581@aol.com

Shuttle Express to and from Las Vegas and Laughlin

From Las Vegas to Laughlin:
10:30 am 2:00 pm 6:30 pm 10:30 pm

From Laughlin to Las Vegas:
7:00 am 11:00 am 6:30 pm 8:00 pm

Price Round trip is \$59.50

Reservations not necessary-pho no is (800) 801-8687

MAIL CALL

Irv Yarock read all your letters and says,

Jack Rathbone, Denver, CO- wants to know why we never report some of the things that happened in camps other than Oflag 64? Jack has been a regular attendee at our reunions and was my (Irv) roommate on the first return to Oflag 64. The answer is simple, all you have to do is put something in your letters. I've only been at Capua, Chieti, and Oflag 64. Tell us your experiences at British camps, hospitals, and why you walked around camp with your hands all bandaged up. People might be interested in trivia, i.e. did you know that in one of the British camps **Col George Juskalian's** major job was collecting dust all day to conceal the tunnel opening, and at Chieti I worked occasionally in the parcel hatch purely to steal some rope off the British parcels, the rope being used to pull the sled carrying the tunnel dirt?

Mrs. Joyce A. Scherer, RR2 Box 26, Monrovia, IN 46157- writes that **Clem or Blondie** as he was known then was not able to talk about his time in the service and as a POW and would appreciate it if anyone who knew him would write to her.

Abe Baum, San Diego, CA- is already looking forward to our next reunion, looks like we've got a regular customer. Thanks for the contribution to the Postage Fund.

Jane Grafagnino, Hamilton, GA- was happy to be back with old friends and mentioned that **Arthur Mallory** of LaGrange, close- by, had died. Jane comes originally from Leominster, MA. Thanks for the donation to the P.F.

Joe Seringer, Wooster, OH- wants to remind us that his winter address is 1500 Overseas Hwy, 504 Marathon, FL. Don't know how **George Juskalian** found him, but he sent a donation to the Postage Fund.

Reid Ellsworth, Chandler, AZ- missed Charleston. But hopes to make our next one. In the meantime he is interested in our books.

Lucille Lussenden, Livpnis, MI- writes to tell how much she, **Don**, their daughter and granddaughter all enjoyed the reunion at Mt. Pleasant. She'd like to get together more often, but barring that, how about e-mail? She asks **Bob Thompson** to publish those available and gives theirs: donlucy@wwnet.com and also gives her telephone number: 734-591-1739.

Tony Cipriano, Wellsburg, WV- is sorry he missed this one but hopes he can make the next one. Thanks for the donation to the postage fund.

George Thomas, 212 Winding Ridge Rd, Everett, PA 15537- wants to make sure you have his change of address. We haven't heard from him for a while, but he and **Cathy** have been plagued by health problems. However he is keeping up with our literature and enjoys our editor, and thanks **Bob** for taking on the job. Many thanks for the donation to the PF. We're sure he would be happy to hear from some of his old friends.

Jim MacArevey-Albany, NY and **Pat Waters**, Mt. Pleasant, SC- neither one sent a note, but it was great to see them again, and both sent checks to the postage fund. Many Thanks. P.S. might as well send my check (Irv) along to the Editor **Bob** with the rest of this stuff.

John Culler, Lexington, SC- and his wife wrote a book entitled "World War II as Seen by Captain and Mrs Culler" and is preparing a web page based on the book. He's also interested in tapes from 64 as he played in the band, also to put on the web. I (Irv) have three tapes so old I'm afraid to try them. Titles are: Oflag 64 recordings 1944, Education Activities, and origin of music. If he wants to try them, I'll send them on condition that if they work, he'll return them. Drop me a note- Irv Yarock. 51 Barclay Street. Worcester. MA 01604.

MAIL CALL

Nat Hoskot, Alexandria, VA- No note, but thanks for the postage fund donation.

Robert O'Neill, Santa Clara, CA- sends a feature article from the Santa Clara News-Press Sunday Paper calling Laughlin the "Playground by the River" that has everything you'd want at a reasonable price, Duane Kennedy is our host, and we're waiting. Entire article in previous item.

Bob Galloway, Mt Pleasant, SC- writes to tell how happy he was to be with us. He's Pat Waters son-in-law and as you know the reunion was a family affair. Pat and Martha Waters and Bob, Heather, and Tillson all welcomed us to their country. Bob is working on the Oflag 64 story and hopes he can complete it by April. As he discovers any "holes", he may come back to some of us with questions. He has a video tape interview of mine (Irv), I don't know if there is anything worthwhile on it.

Alan Dunbar, Las Vegas, NV- who is having a little physical problem, but at our age who hasn't? That's what pills are for, and I think I could support a pharmacist. I average about 10 pills per day. Do they help? Who knows. I guess Lilo is holding her own, best of luck from Irv.

Charles Brocker, Apopka, FL- is sending in for an Oflag 64 Audio Tape and I (Irv) see in the correspondence that Bob Thompson sends them out. I'm not sure whether they are the same ones I have. Thanks for the donation to the postage fund.

Derbra Lussenden-Rusnock- yes, you've seen the name elsewhere. Debra is Don and Lucy's daughter and she and her daughter, Jessica, came to our Oflag 64 reunion and they not only had a great time but also was happy to give her daughter a lesson in patriotism. She recommends that we all bring our families.

Herm Littman, Spokane, WA- thanks for the donation to the postage fund. Did any of you know that he ran across his brother in a POW transit camp? Herm was a para-trooper and his brother a flier. He was another POW. The Littmans were among the many who brought their family to the reunion, all listed in our Winter 1999 Post Oflag 64 item.

Herb Garris, Pinehurst, NC- travels a lot. Last heard from him from some where in Maryland, but he thanks Bob for taking on the job as Editor, as we all should as well as his partner, Gladys. Thanks, Herb for the donation to the postage fund.

The time factor prevents Irv from answering the rest of the mail so, Bob T takes over from here!

Padraig O'Dea, Bloomfield, NJ- writes asking about the OFLAG 64 50th Anniversary book and how he can obtain another one-he can't find his other one. If you will write to:

David Carmichael YMCA Archives , 2642 University Ave. W, St. Paul, MN 55114
They accept donations for the book. The normal donation is \$50.

Carroll "Higgie" Higginbotham, Fallon, NV called stating that he has made another violin, like the one he gave Gen. Waters, in Orlando, FL several years ago. Gen Waters was pleased to receive the gift and stated he would always treasure it. Higgie would like to bring his new one to Laughlin and have somebody play it. So, he is looking for a "fiddler" to perform in Laughlin on his new one.

If you are a fiddler or know one contact Higgie at:

Carroll Higginbotham , 1020 Tiffany Drive, Fallon, NV 89406-3829

Higgie also sends a contribution to the postage fund. Thanks, friend.

MAIL CALL

Frank Diggs, Arlington, VA- writes that his publisher is still offering a bargain to the Oflag 64 men. If you would like to have a copy of Frank's book, fill out the application blank in this issue of the Item and mail it in. I, (Bob T), read the book and it answered a lot of questions for me. I was a late arrival at Oflag 64 (Dec 1, 44) and was not aware of a lot of the things that occurred there. I also wondered what some of our men did while they were wandering around Poland after escaping from the march column. Frank has done a great job of telling his story. Thanks For the donation to the postage fund

Jimmie Kanaya, Gig Harbor WA, sent a letter to **Carl Christensen** , Whispering Pines, NC that was very newsy. Carl sent the letter on to me. Jimmie has moved into a retirement community and has a new address: 2020 38th St. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98315. Jimmie has decided that he is on the verge of getting old! Carl has finally dug his way out of all that snow in NC. We know how you feel Carl, we had 10" snow in our yard in Tulsa a couple of weeks ago. Jimmie sent a donation to the postage fund. Thanks, Jimmie.

Bob Cheatham, Asheboro, NC 27203, writes about what a great time he had in Charleston. He hopes to get to Laughlin next time. Pat sold him on Frogmore Stew. . He said he would cook some as soon as he finds his klm can stove! Thanks for the donation to the postage fund.

Don Graul, Springfield, VA has moved and sends along his new address:

Don Graul,
7448 Spring Village Dr # 421
Springfield, VA 22150-4469
Pho: 703/451-1122

He has moved to a retirement village where he will no longer cook his own meals! He is within 20 minutes of his sons, Don and Charles and their families. He had 4" of snow and he could not go the commissary at Ft. Belvoir. Good to hear from you, good friend. Stay warm and in touch.

James Iverson, Villa Park, IL writes that the Army National Guard occupies a lot of his time, but maybe he can find time to come to Laughlin this fall. Try real hard, Jim, a lot of your friends would like to see you. Thanks for the donation to the postage fund.

Gordon Smith, Baton Rouge, LA misses his golfing friend that moved from Baton Rouge to Ark. His friend was a good friend of mine in college, 50 some of years ago. Gordon, we would like to see you in Laughlin this fall. Why don't you and Marty pack and come on out. Thanks for the donation to the postage fund.

Ed and Elizabeth Batte, Atlantic, Beach, NC sent lrv a letter that he passed on stating what a nice time they had in Charleston. They say they probably won't go to Nevada. You will be missed if you are not there.

Donald Ohl, Long Beach, CA, writes that he escaped from the marching column on the second day and waited at the farm for the Russian troops to arrive. They did and he came home through Odessa. He wrote a short story of his experiences and he wonders if anybody ever saw a copy of it? He is building a small kregie library for his children and ordered several of our publications. Thanks for the donation to the postage fund.

Tony DeSanto, Offenburg, Germany- Tony met **Pat Waters** and **Robert Galloway** in Frankfurt and assisted them in their trip through **Hammelburg**, then sent them on their way to Poland. He says he will be in Laughlin next fall and will bring, **Renate**, his wife. That's good news! He also has had cataract surgery and remarks about the amazing results. A lot us will agree with him on that!

Herb Garris- Pinehurst NC- Herb has been a busy fellow lately. He's a NSO at the VA for the AMEXPOW, MC for the Annual Recognition Day for POWs & MIAs, April 7 @ Fayetteville, NC and had a nice lunch in Bethesda w/ **Dr, Vince Di Francesco**, **May** and daughter **Rosa**. NC has been hit hard lately w/ storms and Herb has been busy w/ his chain saw. Thanks for the generous donation to the postage fund.

NAZI EXTERMINATION CAMP-By Bob Keith-Charleston was Bob's first reunion , but hopefully not his last.

Gerry Searle and I traveled through Lublin on our way to Odessa, Russia to catch a British ship going to Port Said, Egypt. Three (3) Km east of Lublin, Poland, we stumbled across Majdanek Extermination Camp. Lublin, on the main supply route for the Germans in their Russian campaign, was one of the first Polish cities captured. Majdanek (1941-1944) was originally established as a concentration camp under the Waffen SS and its first occupants were Russian POWs but the camp soon became a detention center for Jews. In April 1942, mass transports of Jews began arriving at Majdanek.

The Russians liberated Majdanek on July 24, 1944 -Gerry and I arrived there around the end of January or beginning of February, 1945. I took the following photos of the camp with the GI 35mm Kodak I recovered from Ofag 64.

We met Jane Walker, a British subject, in Lublin and traveled with her on box cars to Odessa, Russia where we boarded a British ship to Port Said, Egypt. My wife kept up a correspondence with Jane Walker who was living in Bexhill-on Sea, England, and in 1948, Jane visited us when I was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. There, we learned the fascinating story of her life.

Jane's father was Military Attached in Berlin prior to WWI and Jane was educated in Germany. During WWI she made 18 courier trips from Berlin to Switzerland for the British. Prior to WWI she worked for British Intelligence in South Africa (Boer War) and later in Palestine with General Glubb and Lawrence of Arabia. Prior to WWII, she was sent to Poland where she first learned Polish and when Britain entered the war against Germany, she worked with the Polish underground in acts of sabotage and in returning downed fliers back to Britain. She showed us a Polish newspaper photo of the results of the robbery of the German pay truck in Warsaw. Jane's roll was to drive a farm cart loaded with cabbages that had its wheel modified to come off. As the pay truck came down a narrow street, Jane drove the cart across blocking the road. The wheel came off, the cart fell on its axle, and cabbages spilled out over the street. The Poles jumped the truck, and the Germans, and made off with the payroll. The photo showed Jane still in the street picking up her cabbages and the truck with the dead Germans draped all over it.

She received the MBE (Order of the British Empire for Merit), the highest award given to civilians. She also received an invitation and reserved seat to the coronation of Elizabeth 11.

Jane also appeared on the BBC show, This is Your Life. Jane died in 1962 a year after we visited her in her home at Bexhill-on-Sea, England. She was 84, nearly blind and hobbling from the after effects of a broken hip. A truly remarkable lady!

Jock Sutherland was also there!

I just sent some of my recollections to Bob Keith after seeing his Majdanek site. We met Jane on the city square in Lublin while listening to the public address speakers reporting on the Yalta Conference. She accosted us, visibly noting that we were allied personnel. She gave us the gist of what was being said on the speakers. She also put us in touch with some of the local cognoscenti who would give us a free lunch or two. My particular victim was a college professor who wished to try out his English language which he had taught himself from a book of a German Author. He asked me for my opinion of his diction, which I told him was German accented (naturally). Offended, this was the end of my luncheon invitation.

A group of us visited Bob Keith whilst he was in the hospital in Lublin. The Russian Doctors used a type of wooden spool stethoscope. We did not hold up much hope for his recovery in time to take the train to Odessa, but apparently he recovered enough to make it. Yes. the Brits decked Jane out in battle dress and dropped her from the train while it moved slowly through the railyards at Odessa. Jerry Sage has some account of this trip in his book.

January 4, 2000

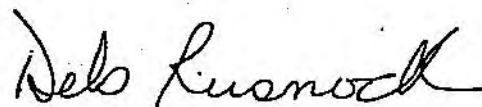
Dear Mr. Thompson

The purpose of this letter is to encourage Oflag 64 reunion attendees to bring their children and grandchildren to the reunions.

My daughter, Jessica, and I attended the Charleston reunion. We are the daughter and granddaughter of Don Lussenden, and we had a wonderful time meeting and visiting with your group. It was an honor to have this opportunity, and the experience is like none other. Jessica was 9 years old during this year's reunion, and she learned so much; I have no regrets about taking her out of school to attend. (Jessica didn't mind missing school, either!) The displays in the hospitality room gave her an opportunity to see what Grandpa Don and his friends experienced during their stay at Oflag 64, and listening to the men share stories was always interesting. Not only did she learn from the attendees, but Charleston's history also provided an educational opportunity. Being able to visit the Boone Hall Plantation, Patriots Point, Fort Sumter, and the pageantry of the Citadel was so much more interesting for her than reading about these things in a textbook. The Gulla Singers were wonderful, and from their presentation I learned that Jessica doesn't know the old songs (but she will!). Jessica also got to experience the true meaning of respect, seeing the Oflag 64 members stand at attention when a visiting General came to honor them before the Citadel Parade. She witnessed true patriotism - another thing that is best learned "hands-on". The closing ceremony was very emotional for me, and I especially enjoyed the words of Chaplin Painter. When Jessica asked me why I was crying, I couldn't give her an answer, but I think she understood.

I urge all Oflag 64 reunion attendees to consider bringing their families. The grandchildren, in particular, learn by just being in the presence of the men who served our country, and the adult children will have an even greater appreciation for what their dad's went through to ensure our freedom.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Laughlin!



Debra Lussenden-Rusnock

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U.S. Army Center for Military History

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West Point Society of Northern California/Nevada

2140 Rockwood Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864

24 January 2000

USMA Library
Attn: Joe Barth
Building 757
West Point, NY 10996-1799

COPY

Re: All Those Brave Young Men

Joe:

Enclosed is the oral history account of the attempt to rescue the American prisoners of war from Hammelburg, Germany in the closing days of World War II that we discussed on the telephone today. These accounts were written by the individuals involved, both from the side of the rescue team and from the side of the American POW's.

I received this book from Col (Ret) William M. Thompson, Class of January 1943, whose brother Robert Thompson was one of the Hammelburg prisoners.

We hope that this book can be put to good use at USMA.

Sincerely yours,

Larry D. Smith, '62
President

Tel: (916) 483-1998
e-mail: <ldsmith@pacbell.net>

COPY

POW Screen Names

As Of Feb 23, 2000

Pat Waters	GPWATERS@aol.com
Roy Chappelle(Texas)	rjhrclov@tvec.net
(New Mexico)	rjhrclov@nmex.com
Tony Cipriani	ajcpow@classic.msn.com
Joan Handtke	JHandtke@aol.com
Bret Job	bjob@heartlandamerica.com
Bob Thompson	THO7448@aol.com
Richard Baron	<u>BARON5@IDT.NET</u>
Ken Hyatt	ArmyMajorr.aol.com
Marvin Chevalier	MCHEVAL197@aol.com
Bob Levin	robert@pinehurst.net
Bill Warthen	<u>bwarthen@cybersouth.com</u>
John Sandford	<u>sandpub@aol.com</u>
Pat Bender	<u>pbender@msjacad.org</u>
Herb Garris	<u>hlgarris@dsslink.net</u>
Judy Winkle (Whorley)	WinkleJJWink@aol.com
Bill Kleysteuber	<u>william.r.kleysteuber</u> <u>@us.arthuranderson.com</u>
Martha Miles(Richard)	<u>Martmiles@aol.com</u>
Robert Galloway	GallowayRD@aol.com
Don/Lucy Lussenden	donlucy@wwnet.com
Ellen Warthen	<u>ewarthen@mindspring.com</u>
Bob Keith	<u>robkeith36@mindspring.com</u>
Duane Kennedy	<u>Duane2581@aol.com</u>
John Culler	W4ZAP@aol.com
Nancy Smith	<u>nancywsmith@home.com</u>
Tony DeSanto	ADeSanto@t-online.de
Joe Serringer	<u>jojoser@keysconnection.com</u>
Maggie Wagner-Ralph Ball	<u>Mrw1947@aol.com</u>
Ralph Ball	<u>rball2@tampabay.rr.com</u>
Jay Wagner-Maggie	<u>jcw1223@aol.com</u>
Herm Littman	<u>hermanlittman@aol.com</u>
Walt/Gloria Heisler	<u>heisler@etal.uri.edu</u>
John Sutherland	ANSENNACHAIDH@progidy.net
Carole Lester-Herm littman	clesteredcccd.edu
Alan Dunbar	LittleColonel42@hotmail.com

If you have an e-mail name and want to be included in this list, please contact: Bob Thompson--THO7448@aol.com

Notes on the photos on the next two pages.

Robert Keith and Gerry Searle hid out in a barn in the first night of the long, cold march and the next day returned to the camp. At the camp, they found a camera and took some pictures. Four of these pictures are on the next two pages. Making acceptable prints of the photos required expertise that was provided by two men that were very generous with their time and talents. These men were:

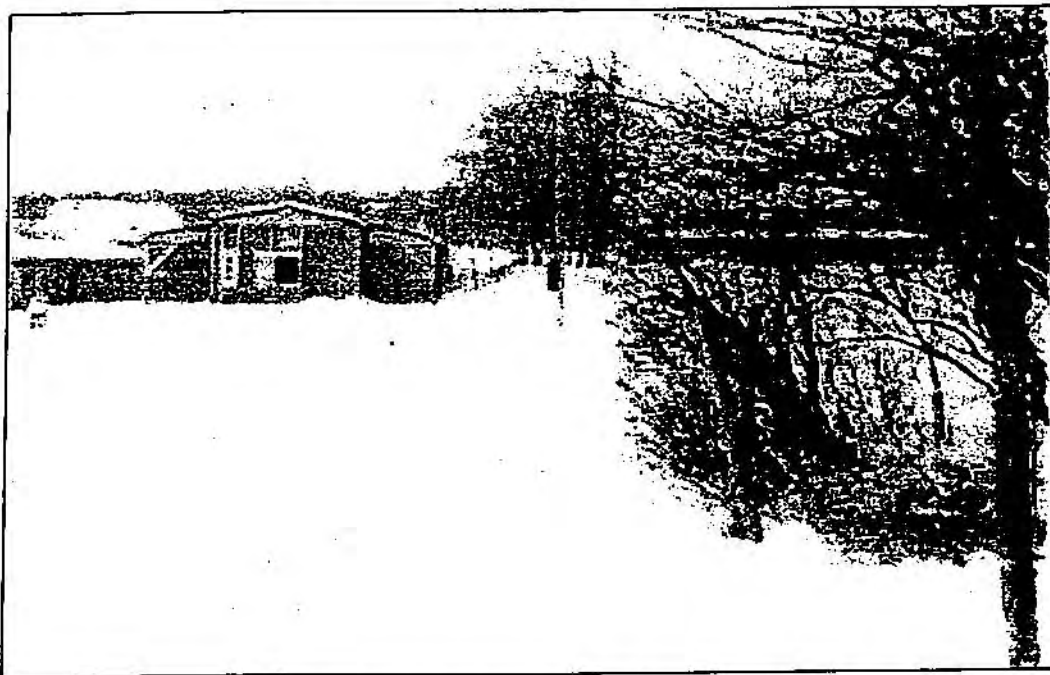
Alberto Poggessi- Alberto is a new citizen of the USA. He was a Capt in the Italian Army and is now a computer engineer in CA. Alberto's father was a Lt. in the Italian Army and led recon patrols for the 92nd Inf Div in WWII

Michael Gawley- Michael's father was a crewman in a B-26 bomber that crashed in WWII north of Rome with no survivors. Michael returned to the crash site and found pieces of the airplane and also people in the area that remembered the crash. Michael is a computer expert living in Hawaii.



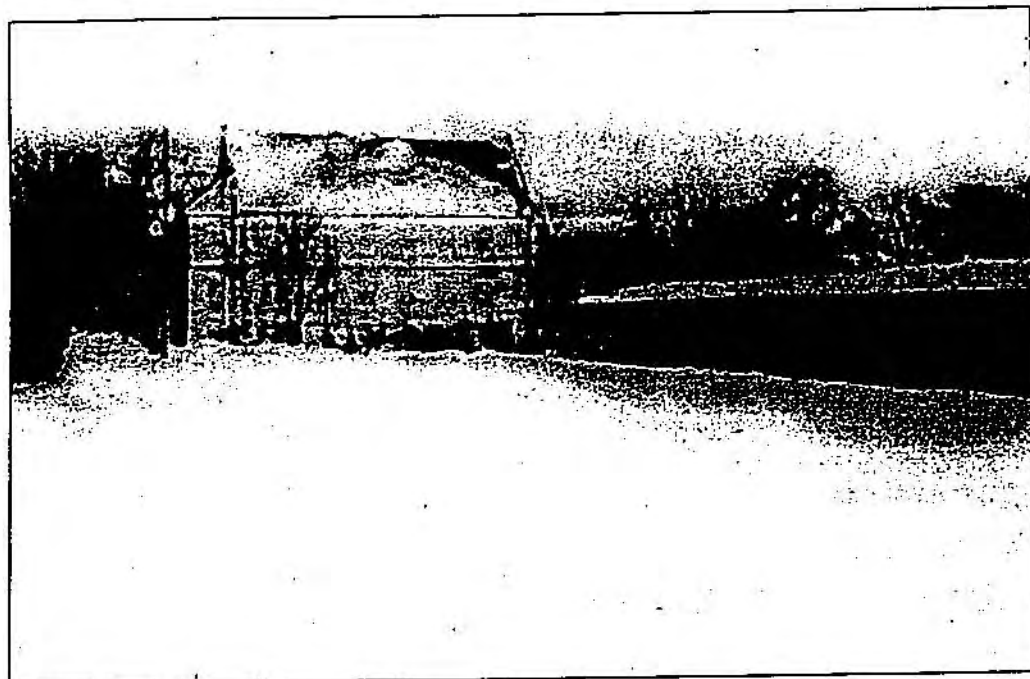
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Looking at front door of Lazarette (hospital) @ Oflag 64



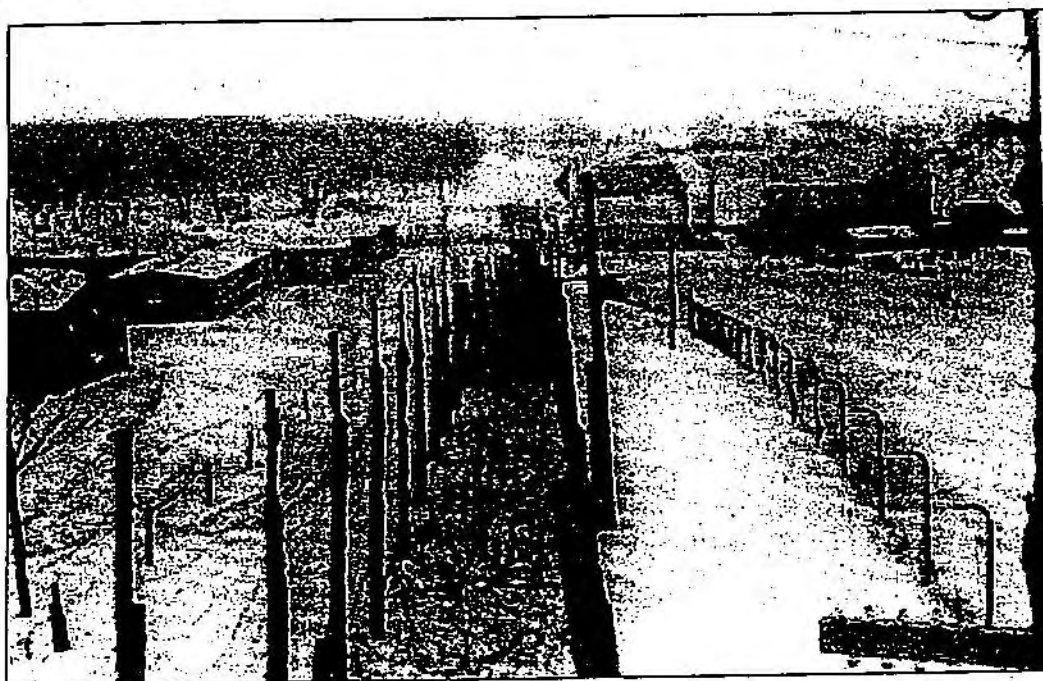
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Looking at one of the barracks- which one ?



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Looking across the Apelle Area toward the side of the "White House"



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Looking down a fence line. Photo probably taken from a guard tower

Subj: REVISION 1 to Trip to Poland
Date: 00-02-25 09:01:06 EST
From: GallowayRD
To: THO7448

Galloway Productions Travels to Hammelburg and Poland

When I asked Pat Waters, son of the late General John K. Waters, if he wanted to go with me to Germany and Poland to shoot video for the upcoming video I'm producing on Oflag 64, he said, "you better believe it!" He had been to Hammelburg with his father, but not to Schubin.

On January 31, Pat and I headed abroad, film equipment, clothes (warm), and an excited feeling inside, one both emotional and energetic. To trace some of the steps you men took, to walk the grounds where you spent so many days, all this running through our minds as we set out on our journey. Yes, we were going to get film shots of all this, but equally important, we were a father-in-law/son-in-law team going to search out a family member's past, so we could understand it better, and pass it on to our family. We were on a "bonding" experience. After all, a father-in-law must do a check up on his daughter's husband every now and then and make sure is still okay.

Tony DeSanto, who you might have met at the recent reunion in October, was a prisoner at Hammelburg, though not part of Oflag 64. He lives in Germany with his wife, and both his daughter and son live there too. We had contacted him as we made our plans, and he took it from there. He contacted the officers at Lager Hammelburg, and received all clearances and had everything set up. To add to that, he insisted on meeting us at the Frankfurt airport and escort us to and fro. He and his son, Steve, who owns several successful McDonald's in a city not too far from Hammelburg, met us at the Frankfurt airport. The following day, we met two German officers who had agreed to help show us the former POW camp, and take us through just what happened during the "Baum Raid," which they refer to as "The Patton Raid." And so Pat and I stood where Pat's father was shot; he walked and saw where Baum and his brave group arrived and departed; and yes, we heard a very "Pro-German" side of the story about the day. It was interesting to walk with DeSanto, who had been a POW there, the Germans, who were those many years ago, our enemy, Pat, the son of General Waters and the grandson of Patton. All these men looking back and reflecting on that time. And yes, I did get some good shots of film there. DeSanto escorted us back to Frankfurt, and made sure we made our flight the following morning to Warsaw. He was a wonderful man, for whom I gained a great respect. A military man who had EVERYTHING organized, and a man who has a genuine warm heart.

It was on to Warsaw, and our next part of the trip. While Hammelburg was interesting, my heart started beating as we got closer to Oflag 64, since that is the focus of the video, and that is where so many of you spent so much time. Ted Rinehart's daughter, Christine Taft, has a wonderful friend in Warsaw named Ron Dwight. I contacted Ron regarding my trip, and he went out of his way to help plan it for me. He had been to Schubin with the Tafts and met Mr. Erdmann, the gentleman who runs a museum in town. When he let Mr. Erdmann know we were coming, he says that "we made Mr. Erdmann's day." Ron let us hire his farm manager, Jan, who helped drive and most importantly, translated everything! And believe me, there was a whole lot of translating.

We met Mr. Erdmann the following morning and our first stop? The Mayor's office. We had a wonderful meeting with him. And then it was on to Oflag 64. You must understand the mixed emotion I had. So much reading, all the interviews I had done about this compound. Now, suddenly some 4000 miles from South Carolina, here we were. We stood at the gate, and I felt your presence there. I looked at Pat, and he felt it too. We felt your entrance; we saw you at appel; we saw you in your barracks; we even saw Roy Chappel over in solitary working on his next escape. We saw the doctors in the hospital trying to do what they could with so little, and we saw the men from the White House battle it out in a soccer game with one of the other teams. As we walked, we didn't talk very loud, otherwise, we couldn't hear you. Mr. Erdmann, in his 80s, walked too. He was a Polish labor worker in your camp back then. We looked at the chapel, which has been renovated (still working on it) and I hear the music coming from inside as Father Brach preached of hope and love.

I could go on and on, but this will be in the video! We did some investigating and found the place where Diggs would get The Item printed. The next day we went to the farm you stopped at your first night on march. We

went with a man who lived at that farm, a boy then. This man helped feed you. We travelled down your road up into Jastrow, and shot film of the roads. We found two women in the city where you thought you were free for those hours, as the German guards had taken off. These women, one 87, remembers giving some of you chocolates.

All this was emotional for Pat and me. Pat kept saying, "I don't know if my Dad did the right thing. Maybe they all should have escaped." But we thought and realized that we weren't there, and at the time and the situation at hand, it was best done the way it was. After all, you survived.

We left Poland with our video. We left it thinking the Poles have had such a long and hard battle for their own land. We couldn't get Mr. Erdmann off our minds. Here is a man who lives to tell the story of Schubin, which included all that happened at Oflag 64. I knew after leaving, that it is our responsibility, the sons and daughters of you folks, to pass on the story that you have written about, and Mr. Erdman has worked hard to preserve. Lessons about survival, about men not giving up, about helping others, about hope and courage.

As I produce this video, you will learn all about our trip. This was just a sampling. Thank you for letting us be a part of remembering all you went through. And thanks to so many of you who have provided information and support over this year. The video, as is important as it is, can not equal the trip that Pat Waters and I took together, from a family standpoint, and a walk into your past.

Robert Galloway

Thoughts from Vic Kanners Diary about escaping from the column @ Eichfelds

- next morning we were awakened with the news that the guards had taken off—
- It's here at last. They've really gone! Oh God, this is it. It doesn't seem possible.
- A bout noon, several Jerries came thru the town and said that our column was to be leaving at 3 PM.
- If this bunch ever leaves town I sure as hell won't go with them. Where is the staff now?
- Why don't we grab those guards and their rifles, and take off toward the east?
- Or just hold this town 'till the Russians come?
- By this time many kriegys were thinking the same thing, only they began taking off to the east across the open fields. That seemed silly to me because a lone man would die of exposure in a short while in that weather. More guards came into town and began organizing the column to leave. I persuaded Mike, Ted and Steve that we should let the damn column go and hide in one of the barns. We crouched low behind two large haystacks as the column marched down the road out of town.
- It would be suicide to strike out across the open fields. Just how do these clowns expect to make the Russians understand that they are Americans before they get shot?
- After the column had gone neither Mike or Ted or Steve looked too happy with the decision to stay. He told us that someone on the staff had a large American flag ready to unfurl at the first sign of the Russians. Ted, Steve and Mike looked at one another and in unison said "Let's go", and off we went to catch the tail of the column. We still believed that in a day or so we would be under Russian control.
- These excerpts from Vic Kanners Diary, I think, describe most men's feelings at the time. There was no right way or wrong way. Anything you did was extremely dangerous. At, least with the big group, that flag was some protection. That must have been the flag that LTC Waters had when he was shot at Hammelburg!

TAPS

THE DES MOINES REGISTER ■ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1999

Verris Hubbell dies; retired Guard general



Verris C. Hubbell, 85, who was a retired brigadier general in the Iowa National Guard, died of a lung ailment Monday at Hospice Kavanagh House in Des Moines. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at

Westkirk Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Glenwood Cemetery in Glenwood.

Brig. Gen. Hubbell was born in Glenwood and had lived in the Des Moines area many years. His most recent address was in the 4700 block of Pleasant Street, West Des Moines. He served in the military 43 years, including more than two years as a prisoner of war during World War II. He retired in 1974. He was a member of Masonic Lodge in Glenwood, York Rite Bodies, Za-Ga-Zig Shrine, Acanthus Order of the Eastern Star, Urbandale-Merie Hay Kiwanis Club and Izaak Walton League. He also had been a volunteer with Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge.

He is survived by his wife, Ariene; a daughter, Dixie Ann Brown of Bowling Green, Ky.; two stepsons, Verne Houghton Jr. and John Houghton, both of West Des Moines; a stepdaughter, Deborah Bentzinger of Urbandale; three grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Westover Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to his church, Hospice Kavanagh House or Gold Star Museum.

GLEN BENNETT

Martha Water's father, Glen Bennett, passed away in March 1999. Mr. Bennett was a Master Sergeant in the US ARMY with 5 years of overseas duty, and was looking forward to attending the OFLAG 64 reunion in Charleston.

Mr. Bennett would have been given a warm welcome to the company of old soldiers and we are truly sorry he did not survive to attend the reunion.

