

# POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

---

**FALL 2002**

---

## **COLUMBUS REUNION 2002**

---

**Bill Warthen has firmed up on the details for the reunion in Columbus.**

**The telephone no. for the hotel is on the agenda page.**

**You must make your own reservations. You must also provide for your own transportation to the reunion. Any questions? Contact Bill Warthen.**

## **REUNION 2003**

---

**We are still in contact with the people in Minneapolis about the reunion there in 2003. Bret Job lives in Minneapolis and has agreed to help prepare for the reunion. We will report as information becomes available.**

PUBLICATIONS

POSTAGE FUND DONORS  
 SPRING 2002 TO WINTER 2002

<i>The Waters Story</i>	\$19.50
<i>My Tour of Russia</i>	\$ 5.00
<i>The Men of Oflag 64</i>	\$ 20.00
<i>The Oflag 64 Directory</i>	\$ 3.00
<i>Oflag 64 Audio Tape</i>	\$ 5.00
<i>Original Roster-Oflag 64</i>	\$10.00
<i>Tribute to TF Baum ( Paperback)</i>	\$15.00
<i>Hammelburg Roster</i>	\$ 7.50

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

*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

Vic Kanners Diary----FREE  
 Contact- Dave Kanners  
 1141 Pine Ridge Court  
 Rochester, MN 48306

Americans Behind the Barbed Wire	
By Frank Diggs	\$24.95
Plus shipping	3.75
Total	\$28.70

Contact: Vandemere Press  
 P.O.Box 5243  
 Clearwater, FL 22205

- |                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Margot Greene         | Richard Parker                       |
| Donald Frederick      | Robert Rivers                        |
| Ormond Roberts        | Jonel Hill                           |
| Don Wernette          | Bob Moorehead                        |
| Jack Stewart          | Martha Miles                         |
| Peter Domes           | Mervin Danielson                     |
| Richard Manton        | Luci Shirk- IMO John*                |
| O.L.Bradford          | Julius Parker*                       |
| Suzy Parker           | L.C.Slack*                           |
| Errol Johnson         | James Davis                          |
| Larry McBrayer        | Pat/Martha Waters- IMO Boomer Holder |
| Virginia Barton       |                                      |
| Irving Yarock         |                                      |
| Charles Turnbo        |                                      |
| Herb Garris           |                                      |
| Blanche Sumpter       |                                      |
| Don&Lucy Lussenden    |                                      |
| Todd Trotter          |                                      |
| Robert Rivers         |                                      |
| Jim Sherman           |                                      |
| Royal Lee             |                                      |
| Gladys Aschim         |                                      |
| Martin Lawler*        |                                      |
| Sid Waldman*          |                                      |
| Frank Diggs           |                                      |
| Ray Klinkenborg       |                                      |
| Larry McBrayer        |                                      |
| Nancy(Thompson) Wyatt |                                      |
| Alvin Robbin          |                                      |

Editor-Bob Thompson 7448 E 68th Place Tulsa, Ok 74133 Pho: 918/250-0897	Guest Editor- Irving Yarock 51 Barclay St. Worcester, MA 01604 Pho: 508/754-8586	Mailing List- Carl Christensen 9 Pine Ridge Whispering Pines, NC 28327 Pho: 910/949-3311
Treasurer-Joe Seringer 1930 Edwards Wooster, OH 44091 Pho: 330/345-5878	Guest Editor-Pat (Di Francesco) Bender 7039 McCallum St Philadelphia, PA 19191 Pho: 215/242-5504	2002 Reunion Chairman- Bill Warthen P.O Box L Vidalia, GA 30474 Pho: 912/537-4430
Contributing Editor-Bill Warthen P.O. Box L Vidalia, GA 30474 Pho: 912/537-4430		

## MAIL CALL

---

Notes by Irv Yarock.....

I'm starting my section this time with a question. "Our" Oflag 64 started with about 150 officers led by **Colonel Drake** on 6 June, 1943. Did those of you who were in that group find anyone in the camp when you arrived? We have a letter from a **Robert Rivers** from Orcutt, California who says he was in the camp in February and March of 1943. He says a group of 32 that escaped by digging out from the latrine and he selects the latrine building from a picture of the camp. There were 8 more who hid in the attic who were discovered and turned in by a chimney sweep. If we are talking about the same camp, I would assume that at least those 8 would be in the camp when our original 150 came in. If anyone has any information on this contact Bob Thompson. It might make an interesting story.

I visited with **Ormond Roberts** again. He has a 1 bedroom suite in an assisted living compound, and his living room is cluttered with all kinds of gadgets. I told you in the last bulletin, that I left a copy of the Oflag 64 film with him, so he now has the equipment for showing films. He has special equipment for enlarging writing and printing, of course he has a television, and now though he walks with a walker he has a 4 wheel electric scooter in which he not only scoots around the building but he goes outside with it. He's in reasonably good health, his main problem being his limited eyesight.

**Bill Warthen**, Vidalia, GA - As of July 13, '02 we have 30 rooms reserved for 37 people.

**Jonel & Lois Hill**, Pasadena, CA - They just recently learned of our reunions, had a great time at Spokane, and are planning on coming to Columbus. Many thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**Mervin Danielson**, Hot Springs, AR - Can't make it to Columbus, but will be looking forward to Minneapolis. Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**Robert Moorehead**, 1111 Putnam Blvd, Wallingford, PA 19086 - New name recruited by Curt Jones and a fellow member of Oflag 64. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from any of you who remember him. Thanks for the Postage Fund donation.

**Pat and Martha Waters**-Charleston, SC - looking forward to Columbus. Sent a check in memory of "Boomer" Holder. Donation goes into the Postage Fund. Many thanks.

**Lucy Shirk**, Oklahoma City, OK - Sent a check in memory of John. Thanks.

**L. C. Slack**, Sinking Spring, PA - Sent a check for the Postage Fund. Hope the Slacks can make it to Columbus.

**Dr. Juluis Parker**, Bronx, NY- Thanks for the check to the Postage Fund. Will we see you in Columbus?

**Gladys Aschim**, Rockford, IL - Sent in a check for the Postage Fund, Many Thanks.

**Ron Sherman**, Oakland, CA- Ron writes that Jim is in an assisted living facility, and they won't be able to make it to Columbus. We'll miss Jim and Jeff but, wish them well and for Jim's many friends, here's his address. Mr. Jim Sherman, c/o Westwind Gardens, 1095 E. Tabor Ave, Fairfield, CA 94533. Many thanks for the contribution to the Postage Fund.

**Todd Trotter**, Bozeman, MT- Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**Alvin Robin**, Tampa, FL - Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund. Will we see you in Columbus?

**Ray Klinkenborg**, Rock Rapids, IA - Plans to be in Columbus. Having airline connection problems. I (IY) haven't tried yet. My agent says wait a while and see what lines are still flying. Thanks for the Postage Fund donation.

## MAIL CALL

---

**J. Frank Diggs**, Arlington, VA, - Plans on being at Columbus. Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**James Davis**, Cambridge, MD - Says his "old heart" precluded him from attending our last two reunions. Must have a new one because he plans to be with us at Columbus. Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**Geroge Juskalian**, Centreville, VA - I (IY) saw him at a reunion in April and he's doing O.K. but has some trouble getting around, so he won't be at Columbus.

**Lucille Lusenden**, Livonia, MI - Wrote back in April how she and Don were looking forward to Columbus. However, since then Don has had a heart operation and has had a really tough time. They may still make it, because Don has finally starting making real progress, but he has gone the circuit. All the way from a coma-like session to a slow but steady improvement. Lucy kept many of his friends informed with internet reports. She practically lived at the hospital and watched for the slightest changes. He is at St. Josephs Mercy Hospital, and that's all Lucy asked for..... mercy. Finally things turned around and he has been gaining daily. I'm sure all the people our age remember the introduction of the first anti-biotic when we were given an envelope with sulfalimide powder and two pills to be issued 2 per squad, and the internet story of the youngster who got bogged down in some quicksand in England. He screamed for help and a nearby farmer pulled him out. The next day an ornate carriage pulled up and the owner tried to reward the farmer. The farmer would not accept a reward but the carriage owner noticed a youngster running around. He asked who it was, and the farmer said "that's my son". The carriage owner said, "well, if you won't accept a reward let me pay for his education". The kid turned out to be Fleming, the developer of penicillin, and the rescued youngster who later got pneumonia and was saved by penicillin was Winston Churchill. Antibiotics, developed in our life time, and without it, we would have said "goodbye" to Don Lusenden.

**Royal Lee**, Mankato, MN - Royal, Harriet, and their son are registered for Columbus. Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**Martin Lawler**, Geneva, NY - doesn't travel much, enjoys the ITEM, and keeps busy with the grandchildren. Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

**Sid Waldman**, Cleveland, OH - Has missed some of the reunions due to illnesses, can't make it to Columbus, but hopefully next year. Thanks for the P. F. donation.

**Larry McBrayer**, Slidell, LA - Bought all our books. Who knows, he might even show up at one of our reunions.

**Alan & Lilo Dunbar**, Las Vegas, NV--Alan says they may not be able to attend the reunion in Columbus. Lilo can't fly and it is too long a drive. You will be missed.

**Irv Solotoff**, Pembroke Pines, FL-- Irv was Abe Baum's interpreter on the raid on the Hammelburg camp. Irv has never attended a reunion, but hopefully he can make it next year to Minneapolis. He is now on our mailing list and will receive all future ITEMS. Welcome to the club, Irv.

## Train ride along the Rhine River



This sketch is from Ed Beatties book "Diary of a Kriegie"

This sketch is one of several in Ed Beatties book. It is a man looking out the small hole in the wall in a boxcar on a prison train from Strasbourg to Limburg, in Oct '44

Ed Beattie was a Correspondent for the United Press and was captured in late September, '44 along the Moselle River in Central France.

He was never in Oflag 64 but was at Limburg with Col. Goode and Maj Hansen and then sent to Berlin and ended the war at Luckenwald.

LTG Carmen Cavezza will be our guest speaker at the reunion in Columbus in October.

## **CARMEN J. CAVEZZA**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**LTG (Retired) Carmen Cavezza completed thirty-three years of service in the United States Army with extensive assignments in Asia. He served two years in Vietnam and commanded the U. S. Army Infantry Center and School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon completion of the Reserve Officers Training Corps curriculum and educational course of study at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry and awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science in 1961.**

**He holds a Master of Arts Degree in Government from the University of Miami, a Master of Science in International Affairs, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from George Washington University. In June 1994, General Cavezza received an honorary Doctor of Military Science Degree from The Citadel. His military education includes the Infantry Basic and Advanced Officer Courses, the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the National War College.**

**General Cavezza completed his Army career, as Commanding General, I Corps at Fort Lewis, Washington. He has held a variety of important command and staff positions: Commander at Fort Benning, Georgia; Commanding General at Fort Ord, California; Assistant Division Commander at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Executive to the Secretary of the Army in Washington, DC.**

**His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Silver Star (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with the "V" Device, and the Purple Heart. Lieutenant General Cavezza is authorized to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge, The Master Parachutist Badge, The Ranger Tab, and Army General Staff Identification Badge.**

**After his retirement from the military in October 1994, LTG (Retired) Cavezza served as the Executive Director of Columbus '96, a non-profit corporation established to support the 1996 Olympic Softball Venue in Columbus, Georgia, which subsequently to the Olympics converted to the Greater Columbus Sports and Events Council. In May 1997, he accepted the position of City Manager, Columbus Consolidated Government. He is married to the former Joyce Mathews of Charleston, South Carolina, and they have one daughter, Peggy J. Anders, of Columbus, Georgia.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**OFLAG 64 ANNUAL REUNION AT COLUMBUS, GA**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2ND—SUNDAY, OCT. 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2002**

Please print:

Name	Name as Desired on Name Tag
Mailing Address	Apt.
City	State
Zip Code	
(      ) Telephone Number	@ e-mail address
Where and When Captured	Where and When Liberated
Unit	Approx. Dates at Oflag
	If you were stationed at Ft. Benning, when?

Guest # 1: _____	Guest # 2: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
E-mail & Telephone: _____	E-mail & Telephone: _____
Relationship to POW: _____	Relationship to POW: _____
Guest # 3: _____	Guest # 4: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
E-mail & Telephone: _____	E-mail & Telephone: _____
Relationship to POW: _____	Relationship to POW: _____

- PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK FOR \$125.00 FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO OFLAG 64 REUNION. THIS WILL INCLUDE TWO BREAKFASTS, SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET AT HOTEL, FT BENNING, & REGISTRATION EXPENSES. THIS WILL NOT INCLUDE OPTIONAL TOURS AND MEALS. (See additional pages for reservations for other events.)

REUNION REGISTRATION FEE—NUMBER (      ) @ \$125.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Total)

Mail To: William D. "Bill" Warthen  
 Oflag 64 Reunion  
 P.O. Box L  
 Vidalia, GA 30475  
 bwarthen@cybersouth.com  
 912-537-4430

Do you plan to arrive by air or car?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- OUR HOTEL IS THE FOUR POINT SHERATON—COLUMBUS, GA AIRPORT - (706-327-6868) (www.spg.com or www.sheraton.com)
- ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPARATELY BY YOU ON OR BEFORE SEPT. 1<sup>st</sup> TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL DAILY RATE OF \$79.00+ tax. CALL (800) 325-3535 & DESIGNATE OFLAG 64 REUNION.
- FUN & INTERESTING TRIPS & EVENTS ARE DESCRIBED ON ANOTHER PAGE IN THIS POST ITEM. DON'T FORGET TO ALSO COMPLETE & RETURN THE SECOND REGISTRATION FORM FOR THESE EVENTS & TOURS.
- PLEASE SPECIFY IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH WHEELCHAIR OR HAVE ANY OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS? \_\_\_\_\_

# EVENT ENROLLMENT FORM

Oflag 64 2002 Reunion  
October 2 – 6, 2002  
Columbus, GA

These events are designed and organized for your interest and entertainment. Please select those in which you wish to participate. All of these events are optional and none are required. The Oflag 64 Hospitality Room at the Four Points Sheraton will be open all day each day for those participants who wish to display information/ memorabilia and for those who would like to gather, to reminisce, and to meet new and old friends.

Also, even though there are some events listed below are included in the Reunion Registration, we still need you to include any of these in which you wish to participate in your "enroll" so we are able to plan and make the correct number of reservations.

Please print the names of those included in this enrollment:


	Number of Participants	Total Costs
<b>Wednesday, October 2, 2002</b>		
Dinner at the VFW -----	\$15.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
<b>Thursday, October 3, 2002</b>		
Andersonville/Windsor Hotel Lunch/Plains, GA Tour -----	\$35.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
Or		
The Little White House/Calloway Gardens Tour -----	\$35.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
<b>Friday, October 4, 2002</b>		
Breakfast Buffet & Business Meeting -----	Included in Reg x _____	= \$ 0.00
Ft. Benning National Infantry Museum/Lunch/Tour -----	Included in Reg x _____	= \$ 0.00
Historic Downtown Columbus Tour (after lunch) -----	\$15.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
Dinner at Port Columbus Naval Museum -----	\$30.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
<b>Saturday, October 5, 2002</b>		
The Little White House/Calloway Gardens Tour -----	\$35.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
Or		
Historic Downtown Columbus Tour (in the morning) -----	\$15.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
Afternoon Trip to Westville -----	\$15.00/person x _____	= \$ _____
Banquet Dinner		
Stuffed Flounder -----	Included in Reg x _____	= \$ 0.00
Or (Please designate your choice)		
Filet Mignon -----	Included in Reg x _____	= \$ 0.00
<b>Sunday, October 6, 2002</b>		
Breakfast & Memorial Service -----	Included in Reg x _____	= \$ 0.00

TOTAL COSTS

=====

=====

Make check payable to Oflag 64 Reunion and mail to:

William D. "Bill" Warthen  
Oflag 64 Reunion  
P.O. Box L  
Vidalia, GA 30475  
bwarthen@cybersouth.com  
912-537-4430

**It would help with planning if registration forms were received by Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**



## DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DIFFERENT PLANNED REUNION EVENTS

### Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Arrive at Columbus, check in at the Four Points Sheraton & register at the Oflag 64 Reunion Desk. Our Hospitality Room will be available during the entire reunion for gatherings, visiting with old friends and making new ones.

#### Wednesday Dinner at the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) – (Optional) \$15.00/person

Around 6:00 pm, we will provide transportation downtown for a dinner (of barbeque chicken and pork, coleslaw, baked beans, and cobbler) at the VFW. This location will also provide you with a nice view of the Chattahoochee Riverwalk area in downtown Columbus. (Cash bar available.)

### Thursday, October 3, 2002

#### Andersonville Historic Site, Lunch at the Windsor Hotel in Columbus, Plains, GA Tour – (Optional) \$35.00/person

This all day bus tour/ride includes several hours at Andersonville National Historic Site, the only park to serve as a memorial to all Americans ever held as prisoners of war. This site includes a museum (with a video, exhibits, plaques, and vignettes of “real life stories”), Andersonville, or Camp Sumter, and The Stockade. Camp Sumter, as it was known officially, was built around 1864 and was the largest of many confederate military prisons established during the Civil War. During the 14 months it existed, more than 45,000 Union soldiers were confined here. Of these, almost 13,000 died. The prison pen initially covered about 16-1/2 acres of land enclosed by a 15 ft-high stockade of hewed pine logs. We will motor to Americus and have a buffet lunch at the Windsor Hotel which was built in 1893. During our meal we will be briefed on the history on the Habitat for Humanity organization. Before leaving Americus, we will take a quick drive through some of this organization’s projects. We will head for Plains, GA where we will have a guided tour of Jimmy Carter’s boyhood home, be able to walk through Main Street (where you can see Billy’s gas station), and spend a few minutes at the High School, which is now a museum of Carter’s life in Plains. We will return to Columbus late Thursday afternoon. (Handicapped accessible. Some, but minimal walking and standing.)

-Or-

#### The Little White House in Warm Springs, GA & Calloway Gardens – (Optional) \$35.00/person

This all day bus tour/ride begins with a stop at the “Little White House”, which Franklin Delano Roosevelt built in 1932 while governor of New York. He came to Warm Springs in 1924 hoping to find a cure for polio which struck him in 1921. Swimming in the warm, buoyant spring waters brought him no miracle cure, but did bring some improvement. On April 12, 1945, during his 41<sup>st</sup> visit to this rural community of 500, he suffered a massive stroke and died. His house and furnishings have been carefully preserved very much like Roosevelt left them in 1945. The museum displays memorabilia and presents a brief film containing footage of Roosevelt and his contemporaries. We will journey to the Calloway Gardens Inn where we will have a delicious buffet luncheon. Afterwards we will enter “the gardens”. Our guide will explain this educational resort and its many aspects including the Cibley Horticultural Center, The Day Butterfly House, the Historic Log Cabin, and the Discovery Center Museum where there is a video film and birds of prey demonstration. We will return to Columbus late Thursday afternoon. (Handicapped accessible. Some walking and standing, but at your pace.) ([www.callawaygardens.com](http://www.callawaygardens.com))

### Friday, October 4, 2002

#### Breakfast at Hotel & Business Meeting – (Cost included in Reunion Registration)

A full buffet breakfast will be available for all participants. During this meal we will hold our annual business meeting.

#### Plaque Dedication at Ft. Benning’s National Infantry Museum, Luncheon at Officer’s Club, Tour of Ft. Benning - (Cost included in Reunion Registration)

We will take buses to Ft. Benning, GA. Our first stop will be the National Infantry Museum where we will dedicate a plaque to those Oflag 64 Prisoners of War. After the dedication, we will be able to tour the museum, which is packed with military history, on our own. We will report to the Officer’s Club for seated luncheon. After lunch we will continue with a bus tour down “memory lane” of sites on the Ft. Benning base. Afterwards we will be returning this group to the hotel around 3:30 pm. (Some walking and standing.)

#### Historic Downtown Columbus Tours (Optional) - \$15.00/person

[For those who would prefer, you have an option of touring the National Infantry Museum and having lunch at the base and then leave from Ft. Benning and traveling to downtown Columbus to take the following tour (instead of the Ft. Benning riding tour):]

We will be able to take a walking tour including the viewing of five historic buildings/homes within a third of a block in downtown Columbus. Then we will take an approximate hour guided bus tour of several historic spots in and around downtown Columbus. (Some walking and standing but benches between homes. Several steps inside one of the homes.)

(Con’t)

Friday Night Dinner at Port Columbus, National Civil War Naval Museum (Optional) \$30.00/person

We will take a bus ride downtown and will be having a dinner catered for our group at the National Civil War Naval Museum, the first in the nation to deal solely with the Civil War on the rivers and high seas. You will be able to tour the interactive museum at your own pace, either before or after eating. The centerpiece of their collection is the salvaged hull (often called the "ghostly remains) of the CSS Jackson. They have other exhibits featuring naval artillery pieces, weapons, uniforms and artwork depicting the Civil War as well as the salvaged hull of the CSS Chattahoochee and the recreated turret from the USS Monitor. This museum is also on the Chattahoochee River. (Handicapped accessible. Some walking & standing, but at your own pace.) (Cash bar will be available.) (www.portcolumbus.org)

**Saturday, October 5, 2002**

All Day Tour of The Little White House in Warm Springs, GA & Calloway Gardens – (Optional) \$35.00/person  
(Refer to the above description, under Thursday, October 3, 2002)

-Or -

In the Morning, Historic Downtown Columbus Tours - (Optional) \$15.00

(Refer to the above write up under Friday, October 4, 2002. On Saturday morning this will leave from the hotel instead of Ft. Benning and will return participants to the hotel before lunchtime.)

-And/Or-

In the Afternoon, Trip to Westville, and 1850's Village – (Optional) \$15.00

After lunch on your own, we will travel to Lumpkin, GA where you will visit Westville, a functioning living history of relocated, authentically restored, original buildings and landscape. The Village of Westville realistically depicts Georgia's pre-industrial life and culture of 1850. You will stroll down the streets and watch craftsmen at work producing items for their neighbors, hear the "clang" of the blacksmith's hammer and anvil, watch a potter spin and smell the gingerbread and biscuits cooking on the stove and fireplace. You may even get a chance to try your hand at a seasonal craft. (This does require walking and standing or usage of one of their motorized scooters. They said you can use your own wheelchair.) (www.Westville.org)

Saturday Night Social Hour and Banquet at the Four Points Sheraton - (Cost included in Reunion Registration)

We will have a (cash bar) Social Hour and then the Banquet dinner, (your selection of either Stuffed Flounder or Filet Mignon), at our hotel. There will be a speaker and entertainment.

**Sunday, October 6, 2002**

Breakfast, Memorial Service, and Adjournment (Cost included in Reunion Registration)

There will be a full breakfast at the hotel at around 8:15 am and immediately following we will hold our traditional Memorial Service. The 2002 Oflag Reunion will adjourn at approximately 10:30 am.

.....  
Springer Opera House / The Fantasicks

In addition to the activities that we have included above, "The Fantasicks" will be performed by a professional theatre group at the historic Springer Opera House in downtown Columbus. This musical, which is about two fathers eager to get their children to fall in love, ran "off Broadway" for a record 18 years. Springer Opera House, the official State Theatre of Georgia, opened in 1871 and is now a National Historic Landmark. This theatre is a very special experience. Performances will be Thursday through Sunday nights at 8:00. Ticket prices range from \$23-28. Tickets will go on sale in August and if interested, you can purchase them by calling the Springer Box Office, 706-327-3688, by calling Tickets.com at 888-332-5200 or by going on line at tickets.com. (www.springeroperahouse.org)

Heard from: Bob Rivers,  
 140 N Marcum St  
 Orcutt, CA 93455-4602  
 Pho: 805/937-1015

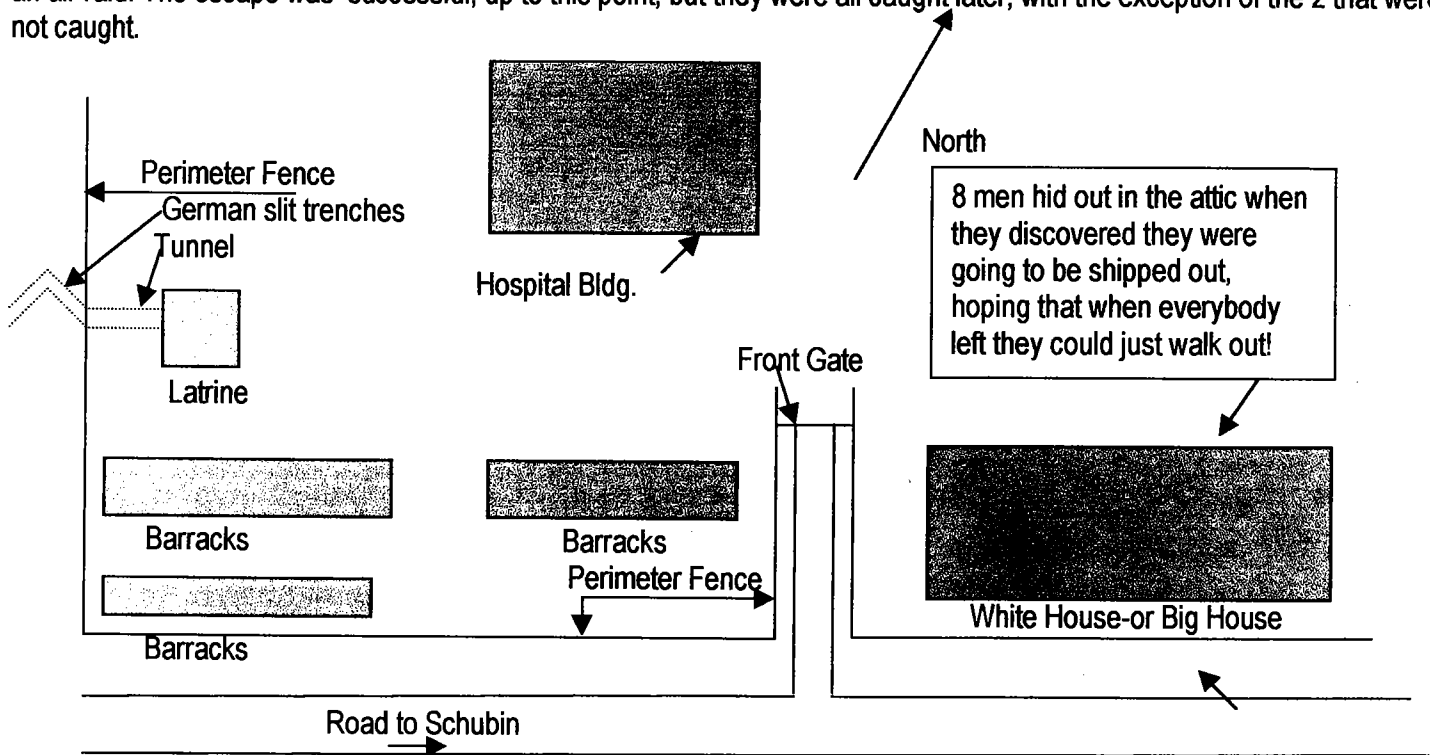
Bob Rivers was a Spitfire pilot and was in the USAAF-52<sup>nd</sup> FtrGrp-4thFtrSqdn, that flew with the Royal Air Force in England.

His squadron was transferred to North Africa to support the US Effort on North Africa. He was shot down on Jan 3, 1943, and taken prisoner by the German Army.

He was transferred to Oflag 21-B in Schubin, Poland in Feb 1943. This camp that was eventually renamed Oflag 64. This camp was populated by Air Force, Paratroopers, etc, from several different nationalities, such as British, American, Polish, Argentina, etc.

In March, 1943 an escape took place and 32 men escaped. All were recaptured except two, who got away!  
 Bob Rivers was transferred to Stalag Luft 3, in April, 1943.

The escape took place from the latrine. The escapees used the catch basin under the latrine to start their tunnel. They dug toward the street, beneath the wire, to a system of slit trenches that was used by the German guards, in the event of an air raid. The escape was successful, up to this point, but they were all caught later, with the exception of the 2 that were not caught.



German Buildings



This is a drawing of Oflag 64 Schubin, Poland, showing the escape attempt of spring 1943 before the Oflag was occupied by American Ground Force Officers. The information was supplied by Bob Rivers of Santa Maria, CA

Richard B. Parker  
3317 P Street NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
Tel:(202) 342-6543, FAX (202) 342-0954

26 June 2002

Bob Tompson  
7448 E 68th Place  
Tulsa, OK 74133

Dear Bob:

Don't think I will make it to the reunion at Ft. Benning, but I enclose a couple of things that may be of interest to those assembled there.

The first is a set of xerox copies of various sizes and exposures of a page of photographs from the memoirs of Marshal G. K. Zhukov, the Soviet commander who led the march on Berlin among other things and who, I seem to recall, stopped at Oflag 64 enroute. A friend who reads Russian has gone through the text and finds no mention or explanation of the photographs, but one of them may be of the column leaving the Oflag (although they look much fitter and happier than I remember us looking and I can't figure out who took the picture and how Zhukov got it). The other is clearly of some of us from the Oflag marching up the gangplank to board the *Antenor* at Odessa. The Russian word means "LIBERATED!"

The Soviet ambassador to Morocco, who gave me the book when it came out thirty years ago, thought I was the tall man who seems to be waving, but I don't think so. You may already have these pictures from someone else, but just in case I send them along.

The second is a chapter from The Strange Alliance, by Maj. Gen. John R. Deane, who was the chief of our military mission to Moscow during World War II. He describes the uncooperative attitude of the Soviets about releasing information on our existence and whereabouts. The officer who met us at Odessa, Major Paul Hall, told us, I recall, that they had just learned of our existence. Gen. Dean said it was the day before the arrival of the first contingent.

Again, this account may be old news to those of you who have been following this story over the years, but I just came across it recently and send it along just in case you were not aware of it.

I also enclose a check for your postal fund.

Sincerely,





The following is a chapter from "The Strange Alliance" by MG John R. Deane, Chief of Military Mission to Moscow in WWII. The photograph is from the memoirs of Marshal Zhukov, the Soviet Commander. The caption below the photo means "Liberated" in Russian

As the agreement was actually carried out by the Russians, we were not allowed to meet our men until they had made their way on their own and as best they could all the way across Poland and had come onto Russian soil. The reason for this probably was that the Soviet leaders did not want American or British officers within Poland where they could observe the methods being used to bring Poland under the domination of the Soviet Union. The world was to be led to believe that the Poles were so enthusiastically happy at their deliverance from the Germans that they wanted nothing more than to embrace their Russian liberators, including their ideology. It was true that the Poles were grateful for their deliverance from Nazi domination, but from the reports of our liberated prisoners who made their way through Poland, one cannot but believe that the Polish people soon began to wonder if they had not jumped from the frying pan into the fire.

Article Two of our agreement provided that our respective military authorities would inform each other without delay regarding American or Soviet citizens found or liberated, and that the repatriation representatives of each nation would have the right of immediate access to the camps or concentration points in which their citizens were located, where they would take over the internal administration and discipline of the camps. The article stipulated that facilities would be given for the dispatch of contact officers to camps containing prisoners of their own nationality. It was in the implementation of this article that we met with our most miserable failure.

The first sizable group of Americans to be liberated by the Red Army were those from the American officers' prisoner-of-war camp at Szubin in northwestern Poland. The Germans, forced to leave Szubin in a hurry on January 21, 1945, because of the unusually rapid advance of the Red Army, left behind them about one hundred Americans, some of them quite seriously ill. Those able to travel were taken westward by the Germans. Daily thereafter, American prisoners of war either escaped from the Germans or were liberated by the Russians, but my first

information concerning them came from the Polish Minister in Moscow on February 14, 1945, who sent word to me that there were about one thousand Americans in various Polish cities. Three days later three American officers arrived in Moscow after hitch-hiking across Poland and western Russia. This was almost a month after they had escaped from the Germans, and yet I had had no notification from Golubev concerning their release. The officers who arrived in Moscow were Captain Ernest M. Gruenberg, a medical officer from New York City, who had been captured while serving with the 317th Parachute Battalion on June 8, 1944, near Monteburg, France; Second Lieutenant Frank H. Colley from Washington, Georgia, captured while serving with the 17th Field Artillery on February 17, 1943, in Tunisia; and Second Lieutenant John N. Dimmling, Jr., from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, captured while serving with the 30th Infantry on February 1, 1944, at the Anzio beachhead.

The fact that these three officers could have made their way across Poland and Russia without being taken into custody by the N.K.V.D. was one of the freakish incidents of war that defy explanation. Their story was packed with drama. They had been in the American camp at Szubin and were among those whom the Germans attempted to evacuate to the west. They left Szubin on January 21, 1945, and made long daily forced marches toward the interior of Germany in order to avoid capture by the Red Army, which was close on the heels of the retreating Germans. At night, they would be allowed to sleep in stables or whatever shelter might be available. On the second morning these three officers hid themselves in some hay in the stables at which they had spent the night, and when their German guards formed the columns to resume the march they simply failed to appear. The Russians were so close that the Germans did not take time to search for them.

That afternoon they were behind the lines of the Red Army. The Russians paid little attention to them except to tell them to go to the east. This started their trek that was to end in Moscow. Captain Gruenberg spent some days assisting the Russians in

the care of their wounded. He worked with a woman major who was the surgeon of one of the Russian field hospitals. The three officers made their way to Wegheim, near Exin in Poland, where they found a small concentration of American ex-prisoners in a camp under Russian control. They remained at this camp for a few days; they tried to find out what disposition was to be made of them but obtained no satisfaction from the camp commander. They escaped from the Wegheim camp on February 3, 1945, and started east. During the day, they would get rides on Russian supply vehicles going to the rear for replenishment, and at night, they would seek shelter from Polish farmers and peasants. They met other small groups of Americans, all seeking some American in authority. They avoided forming large groups for fear of being taken to the Russian repatriation camp at Rembertow on the outskirts of Warsaw; they had all been warned of the hardships they would encounter there. Finally, they found a troop train on its way to Moscow. When they got off the train at the Moscow station, a Russian soldier told them how they could get to the American Military Mission. The N.K.V.D. had fallen down. Other Americans who arrived in Moscow later were seized by the Secret Police as soon as they left their trains and taken to a barracks outside the city where they were thoroughly interrogated for a few days before being turned over to my custody.

I don't think any officers ever had a more sincere welcome than those first three bedraggled ex-prisoners did when they came into our headquarters. To us they represented the thousands of Americans who we expected would be liberated and for whom we were prepared to do so much if only allowed the opportunity. At last, I could get firsthand information. It would no longer be necessary to theorize in my negotiations with the Russians. They were taken to one of our officers' messes and given hot baths, clean clothes, insignia of rank, American food, and whisky. I dropped in at the mess later in the evening and found that my officers had promoted a huge party in their honor. Our guests were the center of attraction, and all their hardships seemed to have been forgotten. Certainly by that time, a complete metamorphosis in their appearance had been accomplished, and once again, they looked like officers of the American Army.

I learned from them that about two hundred Americans had either been left behind by the Germans at Szubin or had escaped from the German column before they themselves had left it. They told me of about thirty Americans who were in a Russian hospital at Wegheim. Hundreds of American families were relieved of considerable anxiety when we were able to send word to the War Department of those who Gruenberg, Colley, and Dimmling knew had escaped from the Germans. Among these was First Lieutenant Craig Campbell, one of General Eisenhower's personal aides. We were also able to let General Patton know that his son-in-law, Colonel J. K. Waters was in the best of health but was still in German custody, being moved to a camp in the interior. One story they told which was of considerable interest to me concerned a lifelong friend, Colonel Paul R. Goode, who was the senior American officer at Szubin. He had remained with the column being marched west by the Germans despite his opportunities to escape. He felt a responsibility to look after the welfare of those Americans who were unable to get away from

their German guards. I learned that after Goode had been captured in France he was put in a boxcar train with hundreds of other Americans and sent across France to a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany. During the trip some enterprising prisoners had cut a hole in the boxcar through which they hoped to escape before the train passed the German border. Several of them did, but Colonel Goode, who weighs well over two hundred pounds, got stuck in the escape hole and was in this position when the German guards discovered what was going on. He had to do some fast talking to avoid being executed on the spot for the part he had played in the plot.

Gruenberg and his companions told me that they had had the kindest treatment from the civilian population of Poland. The people were more than willing to share their meager food supply with the liberated Americans. The officers said that the Red Army was indifferent to them—a few cases were reported in which Americans had had their wrist watches confiscated at the point of a gun by Red Army soldiers but these were the acts of irresponsible individuals more or less out of control in the confusion which characterized the Russians' pursuit of the Germans. Apparently the Red Army took no responsibility for caring for liberated Americans and no other Russian agency was interested. Gruenberg reported that liberated American prisoners were being concentrated at Wegheim, Rembertow, and Brest-Litovsk. I learned later that others had seen signs in Poland directing liberated prisoners to report to Wreznia, Lodz, Rembertow, and Lublin.

I interrogated the three American officers on February 18, 1945, and sought an immediate appointment with Golubev, which I obtained the following day. Armed with the data I had received, I tried to obtain his approval to the plan we had been formulating for six months. I asked for authority to send small contact teams of from three to five Americans to each of several key localities as close behind the Russian lines in Poland as possible and to dispatch American aircraft which could carry emergency supplies in and the seriously ill or wounded out to the American hospital at Poltava. I suggested the cities which the Russian field commanders had already designated as concentration points, arguing that every American was searching for some American official to report to and the news would soon get around as to where American officials might be found. They would thus act as magnets to attract concentrations of Americans. The liberated prisoners could then be evacuated to a port of debarkation as transportation became available.

Golubev told me that so far only four hundred and fifty Americans had been liberated and that these were being assembled and sent to a prisoner-of-war transit camp at Odessa. He proposed that we send an American contact team there and suggested the possibility of establishing another transit camp at the northern port of Murmansk, if later releases of Americans justified another camp. Meanwhile, he said, the Foreign Office had approved a request I had made on February 14, five days earlier, that a small group of American officers be allowed to go to Lublin, to contact Americans in Poland.

Golubev's statement that four hundred and fifty Americans had already been liberated came as something of a surprise to me because I knew positively of only the two hundred that had escaped from Szubin. However, I doubted the accuracy of his

figures because of the report that I had received from the Poles that a thousand Americans were in various Polish cities and because of the indications I had received from Gruenberg that most of the Americans were avoiding Russian concentration centers because of the poor conditions known to exist at them. As it turned out, Golubev revised his figures upward every few days until an eventual figure of about three thousand Americans was reached. Golubev's continued uncertainty as to how many Americans had been liberated at any time offered ample evidence of the ineffectiveness of his organization and the lack of foresight which had been displayed in planning to meet a problem which was certain to arise.

His proposal that our contact should be only at Odessa and possibly Murmansk was a shock to me and I felt it to be a serious violation of our agreement. It meant that we could not give aid to our liberated soldiers until they had traveled nearly two thousand miles from the points of their liberation under the most difficult conditions. I was delighted to hear, however, that I would be allowed to send a small group to Lublin. I selected Lieutenant Colonel J. D. Wilmeth, and he was to be accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel C. B. Kingsbury, a medical officer, and Corporal Paul Kisil, an excellent Russian interpreter. I had already sent them to Poltava on February 14, in order that they would be ready to proceed by air into Poland as soon as permission was granted. I was further cheered when Vishinsky assured Harriman that Wilmeth would be allowed to go anywhere in Poland where there were American prisoners of war provided the Polish Government approved and the places were not too close to the Russian front.

My delight did not last long. In the first place, Wilmeth was not allowed to leave Poltava, until February 28. This was maddening because the situation was one that called for immediate action. When he finally obtained permission to go, he was not allowed to use an American airplane to make the trip. This was also disappointing, as I had planned not only to have an American plane take his party to Lublin but to have it remain there for him to use in going to other parts of Poland where he or one of his assistants might be needed, and also to obtain supplies of the necessities we proposed to distribute to our men.

When Wilmeth and his party arrived in Lublin, he was promptly informed that he would be allowed to remain only ten days. This, despite the fact that there were then about one hundred Americans in Lublin who were awaiting train transportation to Odessa. Further, he was not allowed to leave the city because of Soviet rather than Polish restrictions. His operations within Lublin were also restricted. Initially he was refused access to the American ex-prisoners of war then in the city. Restrictions even ran to a point-blank refusal by the Russian commandant to allow Colonel Kingsbury, the American medical officer, to visit two seriously wounded Americans known to be within a few miles of Lublin. Permission was even refused for any messages or supplies to be sent to the two sick men.

Wilmeth was invited to leave Lublin and return to Moscow on six different occasions. I could get word from and to him occasionally through Polish channels, and I directed him to remain in Lublin as long as there were any Americans whom he could assist unless he was forcibly removed by the Russians. When the last Americans were entrained at Lublin for Odessa, the Russian

commander in Warsaw sent word to Wilmeth in writing that he should leave Lublin. Wilmeth's group was in Poland for about three weeks, and his was the only contact team that reached a point within five hundred miles of the localities at which American prisoners were liberated.

I took advantage of Golubev's offer and sent a contact team to Odessa. Major Paul S. Hall was in command, assisted by Major Earl D. Cramer, a medical officer, and Sergeant Emil W. Doktor, an interpreter. They arrived in Odessa on February 26, 1945, one day prior to the arrival of the first group of our liberated prisoners. They were the first Americans the ex-prisoners had seen and they were regarded as angels from heaven when they produced the supplies they had brought. Hall and his party remained in Odessa for about two months, and during that time, they sent three thousand Americans through the port. Our men were sent home on British transports, which had brought liberated Russians home from the western front. The British authorities, under the direction of Admiral Archer, did everything possible for the welfare of our men, even to granting them loans of one hundred dollars apiece on no more security than Hall's say-so.

The facilities provided by the Soviet Repatriation Commission at Odessa were as good as might have been expected. They were hastily improvised but improved steadily during the period in which our soldiers were passing through. Food was meager but it was well prepared, and the Soviet ration was amply supplemented by American food. Medical attention was almost nonexistent except for that provided by Major Cramer. Our men were confined to the buildings in which they were housed from the time of their arrival in Odessa until they were placed aboard ships for the trip home. Hall and Cramer were allowed to visit them at certain hours each day. The trains on which they arrived at Odessa were made up of boxcars without heat or sanitary arrangements. The conditions were bad and the journey difficult, but the transportation facilities were the same as those provided for soldiers of the Red Army. Those of our men who retained their health during their hitch-hiking journey across Poland and on the train trip from eastern Poland to Odessa had few complaints concerning their hardships. In fact, most of them emerged from the ordeal hard as nuts and in the pink of condition. However, each group that arrived in Odessa told Hall of sick and injured Americans scattered throughout Poland. These were the men about whom Harriman and I were most concerned.

Of course, the situation was extremely fluid. By the time a report was received in Odessa concerning American boys who were sick in Poland, several weeks had elapsed since they had been seen. Golubev continued to assure me that all our men were being evacuated, but I could not be sure that this was the case until the men who had been reported as being ill actually arrived in Odessa. I was eager to go to Poland and see the situation for myself. I asked Golubev for authority to make such a trip, offering to take one of his officers with me so that we could work out joint plans to overcome whatever situation we might find. He told me that I would have to obtain permission from the Foreign Office. Averell went to see Vishinsky, who said that I might go if I could obtain approval of the Polish Government. Considering the degree of independence exercised by the Polish Government, the condition imposed of requiring its approval of

my trip was ridiculous. Averell then radioed to President Roosevelt and asked him to send a message to Stalin requesting that I be given permission to visit Poland for the purpose of locating Americans who might be ill or hospitalized there.

The President sent a message to Stalin on March 18, 1945, in which he said he understood that I had not been allowed to survey the United States prisoner-of-war situation in Poland. The President referred to a previous request which he had made of Stalin, at Harriman's instigation, asking that American aircraft be allowed to fly supplies to Poland and evacuate the sick. He pointed out that Stalin had refused his previous request on the grounds that all of our ex-prisoners had already been sent to Odessa—a statement not borne out by subsequent events. The President told Stalin he could not understand his reluctance to permit American contact officers to assist their own people in Poland and asked that Stalin accede to his desire to have me go to Poland at once.

On March 23, Stalin replied to President Roosevelt stating that all Americans, except seventeen who were then ill, in Poland, had been sent to Odessa. The remaining seventeen were to be sent within a few days. As far as my visit was concerned, Stalin said that his personal inclination was to accede to the President's request but that he could not burden his front commanders by having superfluous foreign officers around them who would require special communication facilities and protection from German agents. Stalin concluded his message by saying that all Americans were being well cared for in Soviet camps, in contrast to former Soviet prisoners of war in American camps who were housed with German prisoners and had suffered unjust treatment.

Stalin's reply effectively killed any hope of satisfying my desire to get to Poland. The efforts of the President and Harriman were not entirely wasted, however, as they served to maintain a constant pressure on the Soviet authorities which resulted in their evacuating all our men to Odessa much more expeditiously than might otherwise have been the case.

When it appeared that all our men had finally been sent to Odessa, I had one of them, Captain Richard Rossback, come to Moscow to give Golubev a narrative account of what he, as a typical case, had gone through from the time of his liberation to the time of his arrival at Odessa. Rossback did not spare the horses and must have left Golubev wondering if his Repatriation Commission was actually as high-powered as he had previously considered it to be.

Article Three of our agreement stated that the United States and the Soviet Union would provide liberated citizens with adequate food, clothing, housing, and medical attention, and with transportation until they were handed over to United States or Soviet authorities at places agreed upon between those authorities. In this connection it has already been pointed out that our liberated men had to depend on the generosity of the Polish people for their food and on the generosity of individual Russian or Polish truck drivers for transportation during the four hundred to five hundred mile journey from their points of liberation to the places where the Soviet Government provided boxcars to carry them to their destination at Odessa.

Article Four provided that each of the contracting governments would be free to use such of its own means of

transportation as might be available for repatriating its own citizens and bringing supplies to them. In anticipation of the need, we had accumulated thousand tons of supplies in Russia to distribute to our men. But, in spite of the agreement, we were never allowed to use our own aircraft and I was unable to give our men American supplies until after they had arrived at Odessa.

The remaining five articles covered such matters as the advance of money loans to liberated citizens, the conditions under which they might be employed as laborers, arrangements for the most rapid means of evacuating them to their homelands, and a saving clause that the execution of the entire agreement would be subject to the limitations existing in each theater in the availability of supply and transport. None of these articles occasioned us any difficulty in their implementation.

During the entire course of the reciprocal repatriation program the Soviet authorities, including Stalin, Molotov, and others, poured forth a continuous stream of accusations regarding the treatment which Soviet citizens were receiving at the hands of the United States forces which had liberated them. In almost all cases, these accusations were proved false and were admitted to be unfounded by Soviet representatives at American field headquarters. On one occasion we were charged with attempting to poison Soviet nationals by giving them methyl alcohol in their food. Investigation revealed that there was a tank car containing methyl alcohol at one of our camps in France occupied by liberated Soviet citizens. The car was looted by the Russians, and many of them died from the alcohol they had stolen despite all our doctors could do to save them. We immediately placed guards over the tank car, posted signs of warning, and destroyed every bottle found in the camp containing methyl alcohol which had been taken from the car.

The Russians had none of the administrative problems which confronted General Eisenhower in the care of liberated nationals of Allied countries. Where the Russians liberated hundreds, we liberated thousands. General Eisenhower created a special section of his staff to handle the problem and their plans had been made well in advance.

He had over one hundred and fifty Russians at his headquarters who were given every facility to assist in caring for their own people.

No one has ever had more support from his own people in carrying out a mission than I had in endeavoring to obtain reasonably good treatment for the American prisoners of war liberated by the Red Army. On two occasions the President attempted to help through personal appeals to Stalin. Averell Harriman was relentless in his pressure on the Soviet Foreign Office. The Army Air Forces made eight four-engine transports available to me. The United States Navy sent a special shipload of supplies from Italy to Odessa to provide medicines, clothing, and food for our men. Extra supplies were received from the United States, England, and the Persian Gulf Command. Colonel Wilmeth's and Major Hall's parties accomplished the impossible in caring for those Americans who came under their control.

With a little co-operation from the Soviet authorities my problem would have been relatively simple.



**NOTE: This is a true copy  
of the "PLAN OF THE DAY"  
as it appeared aboard the  
U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA33),  
U.S.C.G., "Flagship" D-DAY  
Normandy, UTAH Beach 6/6/44.**

USS BAYFIELD

PLAN OF D-DAY

6 June 1944  
TUESDAY

*Marvin Perrett*  
Attest: Marvin J. Perrett, U.S.C.G.  
"COXSWAIN" PA33-21 (WWII)

- 2400 - Commissary Officer will send coffee and sandwiches to men at General Quarters Stations
- 0030 - Breakfast for Boat Crews and Troops on mess deck (Men must not go on deck - use passage through compartments)
- 0030 - Breakfast for troop officers in Wardroom
- 0200 - (approximately)

Anchor in Transport Area  
Set Condition One Able  
Lower All Boats - Boats carry out orders

1. Damage Control and Repair 1 and 2 will see that no unauthorized person goes on deck and that complete darkened-ship condition prevails throughout. When troops are ordered on deck - watch openings closely.
2. All Hands will wear impregnated clothing and carry all equipment. (Possible Gas Attack!)
3. As soon as boats are lowered prepare to debark troops and equipment promptly as LCM's and LCVP's come alongside.
4. Prepare to receive casualties.
5. As soon as Boat Teams are debarked, lower starboard and port accommodation ladders.
6. Food will be delivered at the General Quarters Stations.
7. BE PREPARED TO EXECUTE ALL EMERGENCY ORDERS PROMPTLY, CALMLY AND QUIETLY.

Distribute:  
Commanding Officer  
Executive Officer  
All Hands

100

*G. A. Littlefield*  
G. A. LITTLEFIELD  
Commander, U.S.C.G.  
Executive Officer

PAGE 17

**\*\* D-DAY NORMANDY - SOUVENIR \*\***

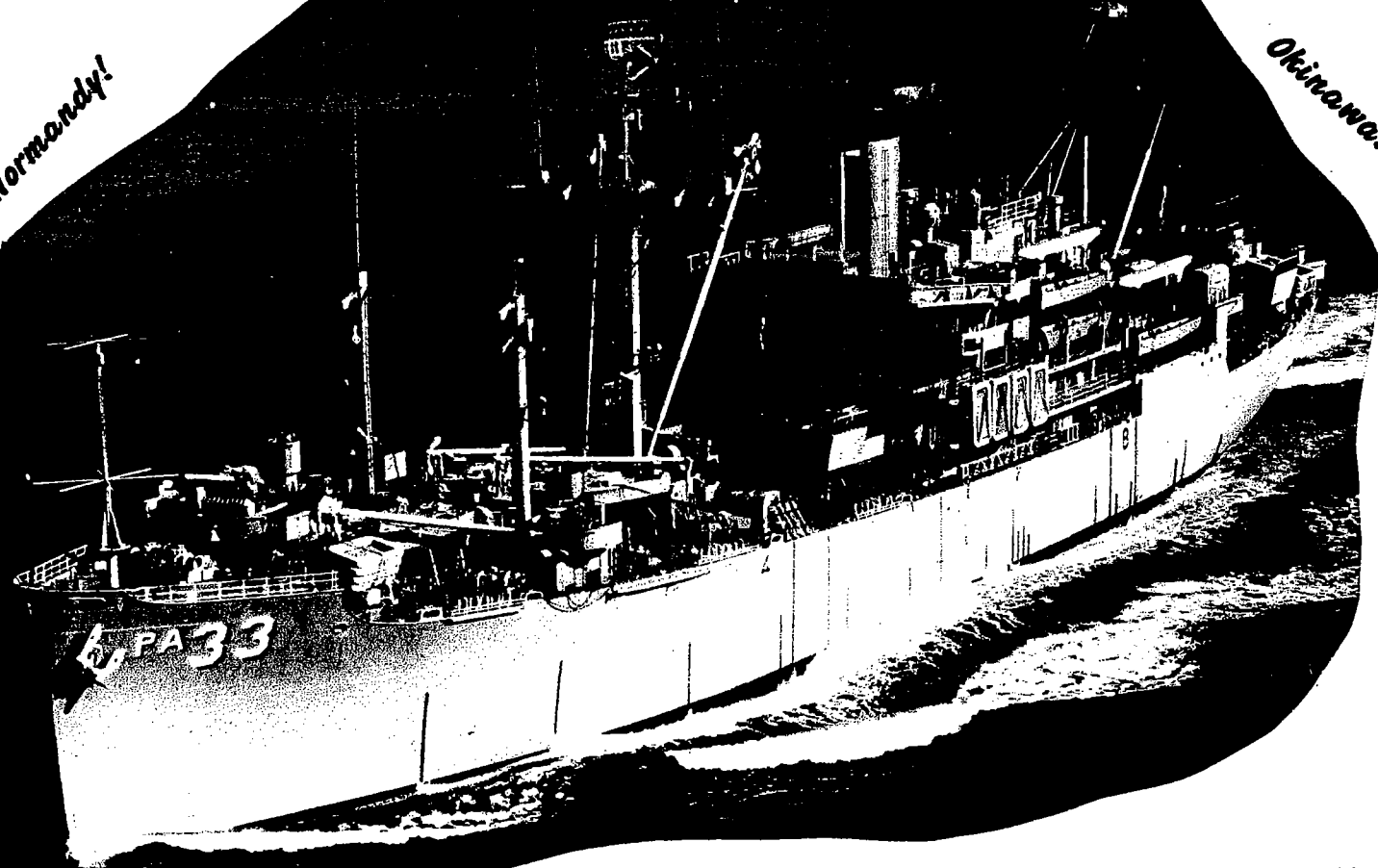
*"Exercise" Tiger!*

*Southern France!*

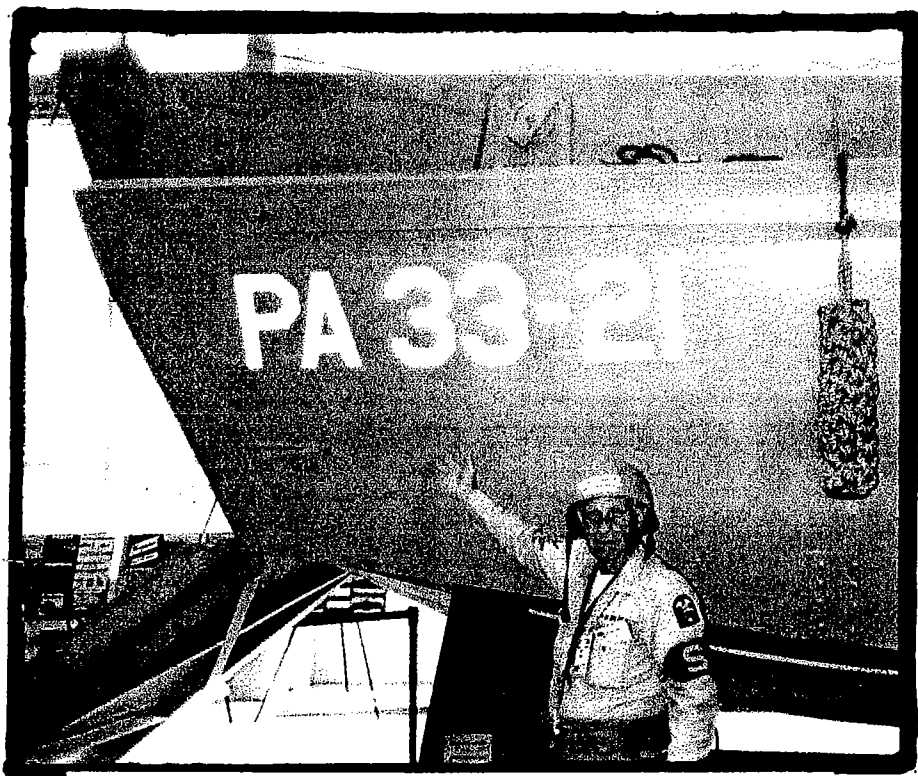
*Iwo Jima!*

*Okinawa!*

*D-DAY Normandy!*



**U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA 33)**  
**{Auxiliary Personnel Attack}**



**...THE NATIONAL D-DAY MUSEUM**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana.**

***"HIGGINS" Boat (LCVP)***  
***{Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel}***

**...God Bless America!**

**Marvin J. Perrett, U.S.C.G.**  
**"Coxswain" PA33-21 (WWII)**

# ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

Established in 1832

Jeffrey A. Wilson, Publisher  
Cecil Bentley, Executive Editor  
Joanna Soto Carabello, Editorial Page Editor

Athens Daily News 1965-2001

## Editorial

# H. Randolph Holder's influence echoes in Athens' past, future

One of Athens' most respected voices of leadership and reason was silenced Monday night. Our community lost a strong advocate as well as another member of its "greatest generation" when retired radio executive H. Randolph Holder died of complications from cancer.



HOLDER

Via the radio waves, Holder's sonorous vocal tones brought Athenians and Northeast Georgians commentary and news for decades. He introduced listeners to two encouraging and uplifting expressions which became familiar phrases to generations of people here — "It's a lovely day to be in Athens," and "Keep smiling until 10 o'clock, and the rest of the day will take care of itself."

If there was any one word equated with Holder it would have to be "class" — he was the quintessential gentleman, always looking sharp, acting responsibly and treating others with courtesy and respect. Some cynics might say he was old-fashioned, but his charm and polite demeanor served as a timeless testament to how we all should treat each other. In these modern times, when rudeness and crudeness seem to be in vogue, Holder provided a reminder that dignity, politeness, integrity and civility never go out of style.

Holder represented so much more than that, though.

He was an American hero, serving his country in World War II in the European theater and earning, among other medals, the Bronze Star for valor in combat. Holder was captured by the Germans in 1945, but he escaped, demonstrating bravery and enterprise. His exploits were recounted in his book, "Escape to Russia," which he wrote after his return to America.

He possessed the typical American entrepreneurial spirit, and he was a consummate newsman. H. Randolph Holder gave local newspapers a run for their money in bringing the news of the day to the public. After the formation of Clarke Broadcasting Corporation and the purchase of WGAU radio in the 1950s, Holder worked diligently on the front lines of news gathering, covering everything from such history-making events as the integration of the University of Georgia to the policy-making sessions of the Athens City Council, to the updated scores of a neighborhood grass-lot football game. He made local news coverage an important part of his radio operations, and the station's news team won numerous awards for their efforts.

Boomer and Clementi were very special people in the Oflag 64 membership. They attended reunions regularly and participated in almost of the activities of the organization. Due to the press of time in the last item were unable to get a complete obituary for Boomer. The local Athens newspaper printed a fitting goodbye to Boomer and we thought we would put it in this item as a last "GOODBYE" to our good friend, Boomer. We will miss you, good friend.

He was a champion of civic causes, giving his time to such worthy organizations as the Boy Scouts, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army and more. And he was a strong voice of advocacy for progressive projects and causes that would benefit the quality life in our town and region. The Classic Center, Georgia Highway 316, a consolidated city and county government, passenger train service between Atlanta and Athens, all those and more received the endorsement and support of H. Randolph Holder.

Above all, he was a husband and family man. He left no doubt of his love for his wife Clementi. Each time he looked at his partner in life, he broadcast through shining eyes, the devotion and deep appreciation he held for her. As a father of three daughters and a son, he set a sterling example of how to live and enjoy life. Love, pride and admiration were ever apparent when he spoke of his children.

It is still a lovely day to be in Athens, but we're saddened that we won't have H. Randolph Holder's deep, rich voice to remind us of that fact. We're saddened that we've lost a cheerleader for our community and its positive attributes. And we grieve with his family for his passing.

Even so, we can take solace in the fact that our community was graced with Holder's professionalism, ethics, compassion and involvement. For that we have reaped countless benefits.

Thank you H. Randolph Holder, and may God bless you and your family.



## Richard Moore Manton

Retired Employee of 27 Years  
with Marine Midland

Richard Moore Manton, age 82, of North Tonawanda, June 20, 2002 in Veteran's Hospital, Buffalo. Mr. Manton was born May 30, 1920 in Niagara Falls, NY, he was the son of Alton M. Manton and Ida E. (nee Duthe) Manton. He graduated from Niagara Falls Senior High School in June of 1939 and entered Niagara University. His education was interrupted when he entered the military service in 1941. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor during the Salerno assault. On January 22, 1944 after crossing the Rapido River in Italy he was captured by the German Army, on January 22, 1945 he escaped from the Germans while on a forced march. He returned to the United States and after further assignments he was released from the service on January 6, 1946 with the rank of First Lieutenant. In addition to the Bronze Star Medal, Manton was awarded the Combat Infantry's Badge; the Prisoner of War Medal; the African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. After the service he returned to Niagara University and was graduated in 1947 with a degree in Business Administration.

Mr. Manton was a long-time volunteer in the Boy Scouts of America, having been a Cub master, Assistant Scoutmaster, District Commissioner and District Chairman and finally chairman of the Adult Leader Training Committee. He was awarded the Silver Beaver, the highest award that a local council can give a volunteer scouter. He was a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow and a three bead wood Badgeman.

Mr. Manton was employed for 27 years by Marine Midland Bank and was an assistant vice president in the mortgage department when he retired in 1977. He was then employed for six years as an accountant in the Niagara County Treasurer's Office, leaving that position in 1984 to take full retirement.

Mr. Manton was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Tonawanda, where he is an ordained elder. He was a volunteer in the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HICAP) sponsored by Niagara County Office for the Aging. He also served as a volunteer in the Tax Consulting for the Elderly program (TCE) sponsored by ARP. He was a member of the American Legion Post #1451, Wheatfield; the Disabled American Veterans, Roll of Honor Chapter #120 where he was treasurer and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Harry E. Crosby Post #2472, Kenmore, NY; a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and a member of the ExPOW Support Group which is sponsored by the Buffalo Medical Center.

Mr. Manton is survived by his wife, Lillian M. (nee Theiss) Manton of North Tonawanda; a son, Paul (Sharon) K. Manton of Batavia, NY and a daughter, Karen L. Muldoon of Tonawanda, NY; a brother, James A. (Naomi) Manton of Kokomo, IN and four grandchildren, Michelle (Timothy) Kornacki of Orlando, FL and David (Karen) Muldoon of Amherst, Amy (Josepi.) Johnson of Buffalo and Timothy (Jennifer) Manton of Germany and one great grandchild, Riley Muldoon.

Friends may call at the Fretthold Funeral Home, Inc., 1241 Oliver St. at Ward Rd. in North Tonawanda on Sunday from 2-4 and 7-9 P.M. Funeral services will be held on