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In the Presence of Mine Enemies...\$30.00

Author,,Chaplain Eugene L. Daniel

Make check payable to and send to:

Mrs. Eugene L. Daniel, Jr

5100 Sharon Rd Apt 603

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Editor- Bob Thompson
 7448 E 68th Place
 Tulsa, OK 74133
 Pho: 918/250-0897

Treasurer- Joe Sringer
 1930 Edwards
 Wooster, OH 44091
 Pho: 330/345-5878

Contributing Editor- Bill Warthen
 P.O.Box L
 Vidalia, GA 30474
 Pho: 912/537-

*It's time to say goodbye to Irv Yarock
 Rest in peace good friend.
 You are missed !!!*

Guest Editor- Pat (Di Francesco) Bender
 7039 McCallum St
 Philadelphia, PA 19191
 Pho: 215/242-5504

2005 Reunion Chairman - Irving Slolotoff
 13355 SW 9th Ct #213
 Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
 Pho: 954/435-7600

MAIL CALL

Don Frederick, Richfield, MN writes and requests a couple of Abe Baum's books "RAID". Don was a member of the 4th Ranger Bn and was captured in Nov 1943 in Italy. That was about the time of the mountain fighting in Italy and the US had a lot of casualties. Don attended our reunion in Minneapolis a couple of years ago.

Ed Graf, Grand Rapids, MI. Ed lost his wife, Peg, of almost 60 years in April 2005. They had planned to attend the reunion in FL this year and visit some of their old honeymoon spots in FL. Ed intends to come to FL, but with some of his children. Ed sends a donation to the postage fund and we are grateful to him for it.

Harry Thompson, Wolfe City, TX. Harry intends to attend the reunion in FL. It will be his second Oflag 64 reunion to attend. Harry wrote a book about his experiences at Hammelburg and Herndon Inge of Mobile, AL reviews the book on another page of this issue of the Item. Harry sends in a donation to the postage fund and we thank him for it.

Don Waful, Syracuse, NY. Don has not been to a reunion in a long time. He used to be one of our most faithful members and we miss him. Pack up some clothes Don and come on down to FL. We probably won't have many more reunions and you can renew some of your old friendships. Don now has his 100% Disability Compensation from the VA. He also sends in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks, Don.

Don McAlpine, Onamia, MN. Don spends his winters in AZ and his summers in MN.

David Morton, Tulsa, OK . Dave is the nephew of Lt. L.B. "Burks" Robbins of the 82nd Airborne Div. who was captured the night before d-day in Normandy. Dave said all his uncles records were burned in the fire at St Louis and the family has no knowledge of where Burks was or when he was there. We supplied him with some information, as best we could. He has also asked to be put on the mailing list for the Item which we will do.

Lewis Lowe, Phoenix AZ. Lew sent in a donation to the postage fund. Lew, we have missed you and Janet. Thanks for the donation.

Herb Garris, Pinehurst, NC. Herb writes about the US Open golf tournament in Pinehurst and how great the tournament was. It was beautiful place as seen on the TV! Herb and Louise won't be in FL. They have a conflict in plans and can't make it. Maybe next year. He sends in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks Herb.

Mrs Eugene (Rose) Daniel, Jr Charlotte NC. Mrs Daniel made some changes in the price and ordering method for the book her husband, Chaplain Daniel, wrote about his experiences in the Army and in POW Camps in Europe in WWII. I was supposed to make changes in the ordering plan on the second page of the Item, but I somehow overlooked it. I have made the changes in this issue and offer my apologies for the oversight.

ITENERARY FOR OFLAG 64 ANNUAL REUNION

FT LAUDERDALE, FL SEPT 14 TO SEPT 18, 2005

- WED SEPT 14.. 1:00 PM UNTIL ?..REGISTRATION AND HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
 5:30 PM TWO HOUR COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAIL PARTY.
 DINNER ON YOUR OWN. EXCELLENT BUFFET IN HOTEL
- THUR SEPT 15..6:30 to 9:30 AM FULL BREAKFAST AT HOTEL..
 REGISTRATION AND HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
 AFTERNOON ON YOUR OWN
 5:30 to 7:30 PM...EVENING COCKTAIL PARTY AT HOTEL FOLLOWED BY A FULL COURSE
 DINNER IN DINING ROOM AT HOTEL.... CHOICE OF ENTEREE (SEE BELOW)
- FRI. SEPT 16 6:30 to 9:30 AM FULL BREAKFAST AT HOTEL FOLLOWED BY A BUSINESS MEETING.
 (ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED)
 AFTERNOON OPEN
 6:00 PM LEAVE BY CHARTERED BUS FOR A FOUR HOUR TRIP ON THE JUNGLE
 QUEEN THAT INCLUDES A BOAT RIDE UP THE NEW RIVER, A FULL DINNER
 AND A ONE HOUR VAUDEVILLE SHOW.
- SAT SEPT 17 6:30 to 9:30 AM FULL BREAKFAST AT HOTEL
 DAY IS OPEN ON YOUR OWN
 5:30 to 7:30 PM EVENING COCKTAIL HOUR AT HOTEL FOLLOWED BY A FULL COURSE
 DINNER IN MAIN DINING ROOM (CHOICE OF ENTREE) SEE BELOW
- SUN SEPT 18 7:00 to 10:00 AM FULL BREAKFAST AT HOTEL, FOLLOWED BY A MEMORIAL SERVICE AND
 THEN IT'S A FOND FAREWELL UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

CHOICE OF ENTEREES FOR DINNERS

THURSDAY FISH _____	SATURDAY FISH _____
CHICKEN _____	CHICKEN _____
STEAK _____	PRIME RIB _____

PLEASE FILL IN THE NUMBERS ABOVE AND REMEMBER THESE ARE FULL DINNERS INCLUDING BEVERAGE AND DESSERT

ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR REGISTRATION FEE, INCLUDING ALL TAXES AND TIPS

ON THE NEXT SHEET ,THERE ARE THREE SIDE TRIPS ,THAT IF ENOUGH PEOPLE WANT TO GO THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO US AT A NOMINAL FEE. I WOULD BE GLAD TO ARRANGE THAT IF YOU INDICATE ON THE FORM THAT YOU WANT TO GO AND HOW MANY. PLEASE INCLUDE A SEPARATE CHECK FOR ANY SIDE TRIPS. IF WE DON'T GET ENOUGH PEOPLE FOR ANY ONE TRIP YOUR MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SEPTEMBER. ANY QUESTIONS? CALL ME @ 954/435-7600

IRV SOLOTOFF

REGISTRATION FORM
OFLAG 64 ANNUAL REUNION
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL WEDNESDAY SEPT 14 TO SUNDAY SEPT 18, 2005

Name(as desired on name tag)

Wife's name

Others attending

Others attending

Your address

Phone number

Your unit

Place and date of capture

Point of liberation: Luckenwald, Hammelburg, Nurenburg, Mooseburg Odessa. Other: circle

Date and time of arrival

Please enclose a check for \$140.00 for each person attending made payable to:
Irving Solotoff Oflog 64

Registration includes all items on attached itinerary.

No of persons _____ @ \$140.00 each = \$ _____

Mail registration by August 1, 2005 to:

Irving Solotoff , 13355 SW 9th Court #213. Pembroke Pines, FL 33027, Pho: 954/435-7600

Hotel registration is on your own call today :

Embassy Suites Hotel, Ft Lauderdale. FL 1-954-527-2700

Mention OFLAG 64 EX/POW reunion when making reservations for the special rate of \$97.00.

Reservations must be made by August 15, 2005 to guarantee rate and space

OFLAG 64 ANNUAL REUNION--SEPT 2005--FT LAUDERDALE, FL
OPTIONAL EVENTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

EVERGLADES TOUR--

Leaves from Hotel @ 9:30 AM and returns at noon

There are three parts to the tour, each one is unique and a tour in itself

1. An Air Boat ride into the evergaldes
2. An exciting narrated alligator show
3. See the wildlife, visit an alligator farm and see the birds of prey

Total cost is \$42.00/person

CITY TOUR OF FORT LAUDERDALE--

Leaves from the hotel @ 9:30 AM and returns about 4 hours later.

This is a 4 hiur tour of ther city of Ft Lauderdale that will take you through the art district, the port, the historical area and the beaches. Voted as one of the ten best places to live in the United States.

Total cost is \$42.00 / person.

DEEP SEA FISHING

This is one of the best spots in Florida to go deep sea fishing.

Leaves from the hotel @ 8:30 AM on a party boat and they supply the rod, reel, bait and tackle.

Total Cost is \$25.00/person

If interested, let know and send a check for the full amount to Irv Solotoff.

We do need a minimum for each trip and if we don't reach the minimum the trip will be cancelled and your money refunded.

This article was sent in by Mel Rappaport, a member of the 4th AD in WWII, and a friend of the Oflag 64 family. Probably most of you remember Axis Sally. We listened to her in North Africa and Italy. Bob T.

American-born Axis Sally made propaganda broadcasts for Radio Berlin in Hitler's Germany.

She was named Mildred Elizabeth Sisk when she was born in Portland, Maine, on November 29, 1900. Her parents, Vincent Sisk and Mae Hewitson Sisk, were divorced in 1907, and a few years later Mildred's mother married a dentist, Dr. Robert Bruce Gillars. From that time on the child was known as Mildred Gillars.

The family moved around a great deal during her early years, but Mildred Gillars eventually graduated from high school in Conneaut, Ohio, in 1917. Then it was on to Ohio Wesleyan University in the small town of Delaware, where, hoping to pursue a stage career, she majored in dramatic arts. Gillars did well in speech, languages and dramatics but did not graduate because of her failure to meet all university requirements and standards.

According to her half sister, Gillars worked at a variety of jobs after leaving college—clerk, salesgirl, cashier and waitress—all to further her ambition to become an actress. In 1929 she went to Europe with her mother and spent six months studying in France before returning to the United States. Eventually Gillars went to New York, where she worked in stock companies, musical comedies and vaudeville, but never made enough impact to gain any real recognition. In 1933 she returned to Europe and worked in France as a governess and salesgirl. She moved to Germany in 1935 and became an English instructor at the Berlitz School of Languages in Berlin. English teachers were paid less than Russian instructors—a possible reason for her decision to accept employment by Radio Berlin as an announcer and actress. This was a job much more to her liking, and she stayed with it until the defeat of Nazi Germany in May 1945. Gillars' propaganda program was known as "Home Sweet Home" and usually aired sometime between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. daily. Although she referred to herself as "Midge at the mike," GIs dubbed her Axis Sally. Her broadcasts were heard all over Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa and the United States from December 11, 1941, through May 6, 1945. Although most of her programs were broadcast from Berlin, some were aired from Chartres and Paris in France and from Hilversum in the Netherlands.

Once the war was over, her broadcasts would come back to haunt her. At a listening post operated by the Federal Communications Commission in Silver Hill, Md., all her programs had been monitored and recorded and would provide the prosecution with damaging evidence at her trial. The prosecution charged that her broadcasts were sugarcoated propaganda pills aimed at convincing U.S. soldiers that they were fighting on the wrong side. Most GIs agreed that Gillars had a sultry, sexy voice that came over the radio loud and clear. Like her counterpart in the Pacific, Tokyo Rose, she liked to tease and taunt the soldiers about their wives and sweethearts back in the States. "Hi fellows," she would say. "I'm afraid you're yearning plenty for someone else. But I just wonder if she isn't running around with the 4-Fs way back home."

She would get the names, serial numbers and hometowns of captured and wounded GIs and voice concern about what would happen to them, in broadcasts that could be heard in the United States. "Well I suppose he'll get along all right," she would say. "The doctors don't seem... I don't know... only time will tell, you see."

At sign-off time she would tease her listeners some more, telling them, "I've got a heavy date waiting for me." Perhaps Sally's most famous broadcast, and the one that would eventually get her convicted of treason, was a play titled Vision of Invasion that went out over the airwaves on May 11, 1944. It was beamed to American troops in England awaiting the D-Day invasion of Normandy, as well as to the home folks in America. Gillars played the role of an American mother who dreamed that her soldier son, a member of the invasion forces, died aboard a burning ship in the attempt to cross the English Channel. The play had a realistic quality to it, sound effects simulating the moans and cries of the wounded as they were raked with gunfire from the beaches. Over the battle action sound effects, an announcer's voice intoned,

"The D of D-Day stands for doom... disaster... death... defeat... Dunkerque or Dieppe." Adelbert Houben, a high official of the German Broadcasting Service, would testify at Axis Sally's trial that her broadcast was intended to prevent the invasion by frightening the Americans with grisly forecasts of staggering casualties.

After the defeat of Germany, Gillars was not immediately apprehended but blended into the throngs of displaced persons in occupied Germany seeking assistance from the Western Allies in obtaining food, shelter, medical treatment, location of relatives and friends, and possible employment. She spent three weeks in an American hospital in 1946, then was taken to an internment camp in Wansel, Germany.

About Christmastime 1946, when she was granted amnesty and released, she obtained a pass to live in the French Zone of Berlin. Later, when she traveled to Frankfurt to get her pass renewed, she was arrested by the Army and kept there for more than a year. At the end of that detention she was flown to the United States and incarcerated in the Washington, D.C., District Jail on August 21, 1948. She was held there without bond. Later she was charged with 10 counts of treason (eventually reduced to eight to speed up the trial) by a federal grand jury. Her trial began on January 25, 1949, in the district court of the nation's capital, with Judge Edward M. Curran presiding. The chief prosecutor was John M. Kelley, Jr., and Gillars' attorney was James J. Laughlin.

Prosecutor Kelley pressed home some important points right from the start. First was the fact that after being hired by Radio Berlin she

had signed an oath of allegiance to Hitler's Germany. He also put witnesses on the stand who testified that Gillars had posed as a worker for the International Red Cross and persuaded captured American soldiers to record messages to their families and relatives in order to garner a large listening audience in the United States. By the time she finished weaving propaganda into the broadcasts, the POWs' messages to their loved ones were not exactly messages of comfort. Gilbert Lee Hansford of Cincinnati, a veteran of the 29th Infantry Division who lost a leg in the Normandy invasion, said Gillars visited him in a Paris hospital in August 1944. "She walked up with two German officers," Hansford said, and she stated that she was working with the International Red Cross. She then told a group of wounded captives, "Hello boys, I'm here to make recordings so your folks will know you are still alive."

Hansford said he and others talked into a microphone, recording messages for broadcast to their families at home. A courtroom playback of the messages as picked up by the American monitoring stations showed that Nazi propaganda had been inserted between the GIs' messages. One insertion by Gillars said, "It's a disgrace to the American public that they don't wake to the fact of what Franklin D. Roosevelt is doing to the Gentiles of your country and my country." On February 10, 1949, an American paratrooper from New York, 36-year-old Michael Evanick, told the jury he was captured on D-Day, June 6, 1944, after parachuting behind German lines in Normandy. Pointing his finger, he identified Gillars as the woman who interviewed him in a German prisoner-of-war camp near Paris on July 15, 1944. "I'd been listening to her broadcasts through Africa, Sicily, and Italy, and I told her I recognized her voice," Evanick remembered. "She said, 'I guess you know me as Axis Sally,' and I told her we had a name for her." The witness said Gillars gave him a drink of cognac and a cigarette and told him to make himself comfortable in a chair. After a few drinks, he said, she sent for a microphone and began the interview, asking him if he did not feel good to be out of the fighting. "No ma'am," Evanick said he replied. "I feel 100 percent better in the front lines where I get enough to eat." At that, he said, Gillars angrily knocked the microphone over, but regained her composure and offered him another drink.

On February 19, Eugene McCarthy, a 25-year-old ex-GI from Chicago, was called to answer a single question. Defense attorney Laughlin asked him if Gillars had posed as a Red Cross worker when she came to make recorded interviews with American POWs at Stalag 2-B in Germany. The soldier stated that she did not. Then in a dramatic outburst, shouting over the defense counsel's angry protest, the witness told the jury: "She threatened us as she left—that American citizen, that woman right there. She told us we were the most ungrateful Americans she had ever met and that we would regret this." Following McCarthy to the witness stand were veterans John T. Lynskey of Pittsburgh and Paul G. Kestel of Detroit. Both testified that when Gillars visited them in a Paris hospital she identified herself as a Red Cross worker. Defense counsel Laughlin argued that treason must be something more than the spoken word: "Things have come to a pretty pass if a person cannot make an anti-Semitic speech without being charged with treason. Being against President Roosevelt could not be treason. There are two schools of thought about President Roosevelt. One holds he was a patriot and martyr. The other holds that he was the greatest rogue in all history, the greatest fraud, and the greatest impostor that ever lived."

Laughlin also tried to point out to the court the great influence that Max Otto Koischwitz had on Gillars. Koischwitz was a former professor at Hunter College in New York who became romantically involved with Gillars when she was one of his students. She had attended Hunter briefly while trying to pursue a stage career before finally abandoning the effort and going back to Europe in 1933. German-born Koischwitz eventually returned to Germany, renounced his U.S. citizenship, and became an official in the Nazi radio service in charge of propaganda broadcasts. He thus was Mildred's superior. In her trips to the witness stand, Gillars was usually tearful. She said Koischwitz's Svengali-like influence over her had led her to make broadcasts for Hitler. She and the professor had lived together in Berlin, she said, and she burst into tears when informed that she had died.

In his final summation before the jury, prosecutor Kelley told them Gillars was a traitor who broadcast rotten propaganda for wartime Germany and got a sadistic joy out of it, especially those broadcasts in which she described in harrowing detail the agonies of wounded American soldiers before they died. "She sold out to them," he said. "She thought she was on the winning side, and all she cared about was her own selfish fame."

The trial ended on March 8, 1949, after six hectic weeks. The next day Judge Curran put the case in the hands of the jury of seven men and five women. After deliberating for 101½ hours, they were unable to reach a verdict and were sequestered in a hotel for the night. They met again the next morning, and after 17 hours of further deliberation they acquitted her of seven of the eight counts pressed by the government in its original 10-count indictment. However, they found her guilty on count No. 10, involving the Nazi broadcast of the play *Vision of Invasion*. On Saturday, March 26, Judge Curran pronounced sentence: 10 to 30 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, eligible for parole after 10 years. Mildred Gillars, alias Axis Sally, was then transported to the Federal Women's Reformatory in Alderson, W.Va. When she became eligible for parole in 1959, she waived the right, apparently preferring prison to ridicule as a traitor on the outside. Two years later, when she applied for parole, it was granted. At 6:25 a.m. on June 10, 1961, she walked out the gate of Alderson prison a free woman.

Gillars taught for a while in a Roman Catholic school for girls in Columbus, Ohio, and then returned to her old college, Ohio Wesleyan. She received a bachelor's degree in speech in 1973. Gillars died June 25, 1988, at the age of 87.



Bonnland Festivity 2005



Flag Ceremony



When the 14th US-Armored Division liberated OFLAG XIII-B, the first tank, which crashed the fence had a US-Flag on the top of its engine compartment. This 48-Star-US-Flag was hoist over camp Hammelburg, until an official flag was delivered.

On 6 April 1945 Milton Long was a Jeep driver and took part in the liberation of camp Hammelburg. After the war, his postmaster wanted him during a veterans reunion to bring this flag to Berlin into a museum. But Milton Long thought, it would be a better idea, if this flag would come back to Hammelburg. Milton Long and Hauptmann (Ret) Manfred Roser are both member of the Motts Military Museum of Ohio. Milton Long tasked Manfred Roser to organize the return of this flag.



After the official opening of the Bonnland festivity on 18 June 2005, there was a little ceremony at 10:30 hrs behind Greifenstein Castle. Hauptfeldwebel Martin Heinlein's (second from the left) Officer Cadets stood in formation as a guard of honor.

Also the US-Reenactors stood as an infantry platoon of the 4th US-Armored Division in formation for the return of the flag.



Manfred Roser (second from the left) read the speech which he received by Milton Long to the assembled audience.



Speech of Milton Long

In view of the fact that I could not be present on this occasion I have asked my good friend Manfred Roser to give the speech.

General Berger, US Veterans and guests.

First I want to thank you for including me as part of your Hammelburg celebration. I am sure that the POW camp, OFLAG XIII-B played a role in the history both from its purpose and its liberation.

On 6 April when the tanks of the 14th Armored Division entered the compound they found some very happy former POW's. A dry eye was hard to find and when the American Flag was raised all the men cheered and the flag was a symbol of freedom.

Colonel John Waters, General Patton's son-in-law, thanked his liberators and the fact that few were killed or wounded in the liberation.

A few weeks later I had the honor to meet General Patton and when he asked me what my job was I told him "I am only a Jeep driver, Sir". He sat me down and for twenty minutes he told me how important good Jeep drivers were and that without them the brass would never be the place they were supposed to be. He said he wouldn't trade one Jeep driver for a half dozen of these shave tail officers they are sending him from the states.

During our training we were told that the German soldier was a monster and that we could expect the worse when fighting him. Well on Christmas Eve 1944 we learned this wasn't true.

While on outpost, and a star lit night, my buddy and I started singing Christmas carols, when from out in no-mans-land we heard someone joining in, only singing in German. On Christmas day we saw a white flag of truce raised and two German soldiers walking our way. They were not armed but were carrying something. We went out to meet them and they wanted to wish us a merry Christmas. They gave us a couple cans of beef and potatoes. We returned the favor and gave them some of our rations. In addition we gave them several packs of cigarettes. They stepped back, saluted, and were gone.

It is with pleasure that the flag that flew at the Hammelburg POW Camp becomes a part of your display to honor that occasion. This is presented as a token of our friendship after all these years. The officers and men of the 14th Armored Division are proud to be a part of your celebration.

Thank you, and may god bless you all.

Lt. Colonel Milton J. Long AUS (RET)
Gahanna, OHIO, U.S.A.



Manfred Roser, presents the US-Flag to Brigadegeneral Johann Berger. The flag will find a place in the Headquarters of the Infantry School, so that everybody, who enters the building cans see it.

Photos: Oberstabsfeldwebel (Reserve) Herbert Hausmann

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This is Roy and Helen Chappelles house in Kaufman, Texas
They have now returned to their house after their stay in Woodlands
Texas, after their surgery.
They are in the process of recuperating from their recent hospital
stay and are more comfortable in their house.
The house was built by Roy's grandfather, who was a leading
merchant in Kaufmann, years ago.
Roy and Helen will probably not attend the Florida reunion because
of their health. Hopefully they can make it next year in New Orleans.

X With Richard P.O.W. X

Lt. Paul N. Carnes Praises Red Cross

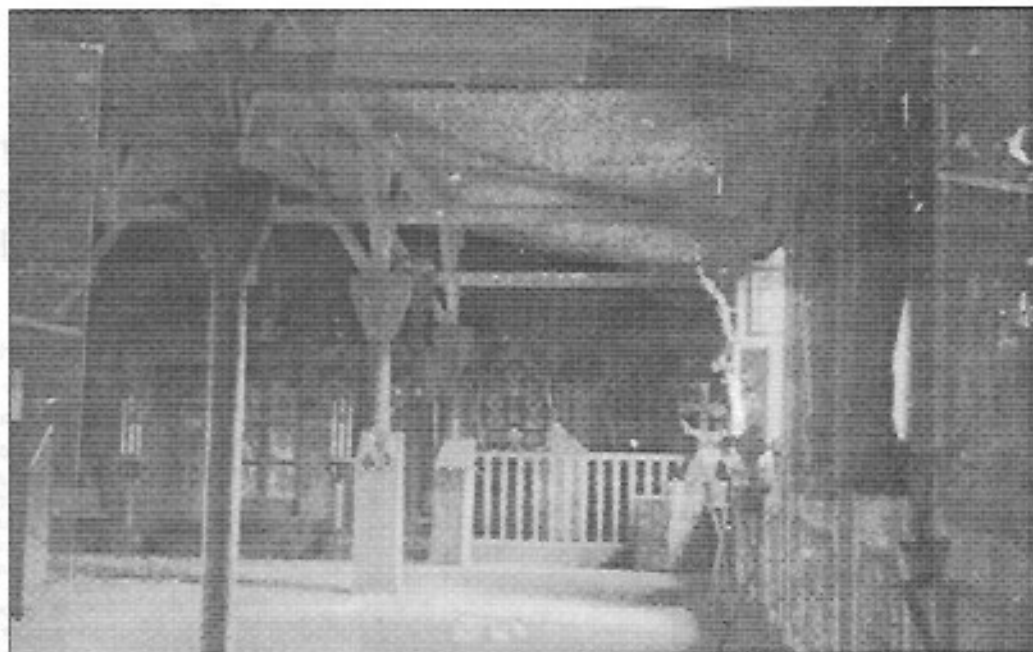


LT. PAUL N. CARNES

2nd Lt. Paul N. Carnes, of Ellettsville, now a prisoner of war in German Prison Camp No. 64, in Poland, in letters to his fiancée, Miss Betty Ikerd, cashier of the Public Service Company, gives credit to the British and American Red Cross for most of the comforts in his prison life.

Once a week, he writes, an eleven-pound food ration package from either the British or American Red Cross is given to each prisoner. In a letter written Dec. 19 he said the prisoners were looking forward to Christmas and New Year's for the food packages, which, at this season would contain candy and other special things.

He said he baked a cake from materials found in the regular Red Cross food materials. "It contained Red Cross biscuit crumbs, oatmeal, shortening, sugar and cocoa. On it was a delicious icing. It was so good," he wrote, "that I am contemplating another in the near future."



This may be in the theatre or the chapel. Which, I do not know. Maybe some of the old timers will recognize it.
(Supplied by Mary Jane Mason)



Blevins Lachance Denman
Mason Feldman Paul Carnes Hert

Everything on this page was from things Richard Mason brought home and I obtained from his widow, Mary Jane of Tulsa. OK

His Campus Faces Barbed Wire



CAPT. HUBERT D. ELDRIDGE, Former superintendent of the Greeley public schools, now a prisoner of war in Germany, who heads one of the strangest of war-born educational institutions. He is director of the College of Captivity conducted in German prison camp No. 64 in the Polish Corridor.

COLORADAN HEADS COLLEGE IN NAZI CAMP

Capt. Hubert Eldridge of Greeley Has Unique Educational Job.

A widely known Colorado educator, Capt. Hubert D. Eldridge, is director of the "College of Captivity" at German prison camp No. 64 in the Polish corridor, the War Prisoners Aid of the Y. M. C. A., a branch of the National War fund, announced Wednesday. American ground officers are confined at the camp.

Thirty of these men recently passed the entrance examination and have matriculated at the College of Captivity, which has thirty-five qualified teachers.

A report from Henry Soederberg, a neutral Y. M. C. A. worker in the prison camp, said the examinations given were those established by the International Bureau of Education at Geneva, in conjunction with the United States armed forces institute.

The curriculum includes courses in law, mathematics, English grammar, social science, science and foreign languages.

Equipment has been supplied thru the National War Fund office. More than one million textbooks have been sent to Camp 64 and other similar camps in Germany.

Captain Eldridge was superintendent of the Greeley public schools from 1934 until 1943, when he resigned to enter the Allied Military Government service. He went to England a year ago, and was reported "missing in action in France" as of Aug. 3, 1944, to his wife, Mrs. Laura Eldridge of 451 Marion street, Denver. He was reported a prisoner of the Germans Oct. 28. He is a veteran of World war I.

Two daughters, Laura Lee and Patricia, and a son, Robert, live with their mother. The eldest daughter, Jean, is with the Waves,

This is one of the professors in the "KREIGIE COLLEGE" at Oflag 64. (Supplied by Mary Jane Mason)

PATTON'S ILL-FATED RAID

by Harry A. Thompson

(Historical Resources Press, 2002; 271 pp; \$29.95 — ISBN 0964251116).

The author, Harry A. Thompson, a World War II Chief Warrant Officer, was a German prisoner of war held in Oflag XIII B, Hammelburg, an American officer's prison camp. His outstanding book recounting his experiences is "must reading" for anyone interested in World War II.

In March, 1945 General George S. Patton, Jr. ordered a task force of the Fourth Armored Division to break through the front lines and race sixty miles to the Oflag at Hammelburg to rescue American officer prisoners held there.

The raid to liberate American prisoners at Hammelburg became known when it was learned that General Patton's son-in-law, Lt. Colonel John K. Waters, was one of the prisoners there, having been captured two years earlier in North Africa.

The task force, commanded by Captain Abraham Baum, contained 300 men and 53 vehicles, including tanks, tank destroyers, trucks and half-tracks. The column fought its way through 60 miles of hostile German territory after breaking through the front lines at Ashaffenburg on the Main River. The column reached the prison camp in mid-afternoon 27 March.

Two previous books and several magazine articles regarding the raid have been written during the past 50 years. Anyone interested in World War II and especially the fighting in Germany and General "Blood and Guts" Patton will find this book outstanding. It is an excellent record of the raid on the prison camp where all of the men and vehicles of the task force were lost.

Space does not allow a complete review of Thompson's book but I want to mention that, I, too was a lieutenant prisoner at Hammelburg having been captured in January during the Battle of the Bulge. When the tanks arrived at the Oflag, I, like him, went through the hole in the electrified fence to where the tanks were. I, too, climbed on a tank hoping to return to American lines. When it appeared that space was limited, Harry Thompson went back into the Oflag and was marched out with the main group of prisoners toward Nurnburg. The column of prisoners was later bombed by American planes when they passed through Nurnburg. Many of the prisoners were wounded or killed in the bombing. I chose to remain on a tank when the task force headed back toward the American lines. The column, after meeting fierce opposition, returned to the camp area after most of the vehicles were destroyed by the Germans and then were moved farther south.

When I arrived as a prisoner at Hammelburg in early March 1945, I was put in a room in an unheated building along with about 30 other prisoners. Chaplain Rolander Koscamp from the 28th Division was in our room and each night when the electricity for the only light bulb was cut off he conducted a prayer session. He also conducted Sunday services in the cold, unheated recreation room. Harry Thompson writes with deep sincerity about the death of Chaplain Koscamp in the bombing.

This book is well written, factual and further increases the knowledge of General Patton's secret abortive raid that resulted with the loss of the task force of 300 men and 53 vehicles in the last few weeks of the war. I highly recommend it.

— Herndon Inge, Jr., Mobile, AL

TAPS

June 27, 2005

OFLAG 64
7448 E. 68th PL.
Tulsa, OK 74133

Gentlemen:

On April 30th, 2004, my husband passed away.

Lt. Michael J. Piecuch
54 Carter Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Born March 19, 1919, and died April 30, 2004, at the age of 85

He was taken prisoner on February 11, 1944, near Aprilia, Italy, with the 179th
Regiment and liberated on April 29, 1945, in Schubin, Moosburg.

Family: Wife: Elvira G. Piecuch
Sons: John M. Piecuch
Thomas S. Piecuch
Robert E. Piecuch
David B. Piecuch

Yours Truly,

Mrs. Michael Piecuch

Mrs. Michael Piecuch