

Artax's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed wire, towers and guards
drawn by Jim Batten

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

SUMMER 2005

Irv Solotoff has made some changes in the format for the reunion in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl, in Sept. 2005

The changes are in the programs and how they are to be handled. Irv has deleted the raffle and souvenir journal but nothing else. It was felt that our men and women would need a little more free time while at the reunion. There were other reasons and if you will ask Irv at the reunion he will bring you up to date. You can call Irv at 954/435-7600 if you need to ask some questions now.

It is time to be filling out the forms and make all the arrangements to be in FL in Sept.

Postage Fund Donors 2005

PUBLICATIONS

The Waters Story \$19.50
My Tour of Russia \$ 5.00
The Men of Oflag 64 \$ 20.00
The Oflag 64 Directory \$ 3.00
Oflag 64 Audio Tape \$ 5.00
Original Roster-Oflag 64 \$10.00
Tribute to TF Baum \$15.00
Hammelburg Roster \$ 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
New Price...\$22.00 (includes shipping)
Contact: Vandemere Press
P.O. Box 5243
Clearwater, FL 22205

Press Releases -----\$10.95
Ted Roggen
101 Westcott
Houston, TX 77007

Tony DeSDanto
Tom Lawson
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John Stewart
A.P.Clark
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Mary Russell
Bob O'Neill
Bob Cheatham
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Jean Gever
Brad Bradford
Jimmie Kanaya
Nancy Zelenack
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Ed Rooney
Ormond Hessler
Caroll Higginbotham
Jimmie Kanaya
Margie Slack
Bub Bolling
John Cramer
Jimmie Kanaya
Hyman Goodman
Jonel Hill
Mrs Eugene Daniels

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We lost our good friend Irv Yarock
RIP Good Friend

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

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

MAIL CALL

John Cramer, Monroe, PA says his name was dropped off the mailing list due to he and his wife moving 3 times in the past five years. That's a pretty good reason John, but you are back on the list now. We thank you for the donation to the postage fund.

Alan Dunbar, Las Vegas, NV. as most of you know, Alan fell and broke his neck in a couple of places recently, but has recovered enough to walk around with a cane. He is doing a lot better and is considering coming to FL in Sept. Thanks., Alan, for the donation to the postage fund.

Edward Rooney, Spokane, WA has requested one of Abe Baum's books and also sent a donation to the postage fund, for which we are grateful.

Carroll Higginbotham, Reno, NV writes asking for one of Abe Baum's books and also sends in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks for both "Higgie"

Herb Garris, Pinehurst, NC, sent in the obit for Elizabeth Batte. She was the wife of 62 years of Ed Batte and Herb was a friend of both them for many, many years. Herb and Louise will not be at the '05 reunion for personal reasons. We will miss them both.

Louis Gendron, Greenwich, CT was a Lt. in the French Army and spent some time at Oflag 64 and Luckenwald. He sent in an account of his time at both places and we will put them in the recent collection of books. He sent in a donation to the postage fund for which we thank him.

Jonel Hill, Pasadena, CA sends in a generous donation to the Postage Fund. Thank you Jonel and we hope to see you in FL this fall!

Hyman Goodman, Providence, RI asks for a couple of Abe Baum's books with a donation to the PD. Thank you, sir!!

Jimmie Kanaya, Gig Harbor, WA asks for a book by Abe Baum along with a donation to the Postage Fund.

Mrs. Eugene Daniel, Charlotte, NC says that her husband's book "In the presence of mine enemies" has been selling for \$53.20 per used copy and she wishes to tell everybody that she is selling her husband's books at \$30.00 per copy (New). We have noted the change in price on the page of publications in this issue of the Item.

Marjie Slack, Burke, VA writes explaining how much the Oflag 64 family means to her. I think she feels like a lot of us do about the friendship that has built up over the last 60 years in the Oflag 64 family. The reunions each year kindle the fire a little bit. I think all of us feel like she does. Marjie also sent in a donation to the postage fund for which we thank her.

Bud Bolling, Dallas, TX sends in a generous donation to the Postage Fund. Thank you sir and we will looking for you in FL this fall.

Herndon Inge, Mobile, AL. Herndon was one of the Lts. at Hammelburg, during the Task Force Baum Raid and sent in his account of the raid. We will put his account in the book "The Hammelburg Affair" for others to share his experience. He also ordered one of Abe Baum's books and hopefully he will be at the reunion in Florida next fall to renew his friendship with some of his old Hammelburg friends.

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 Oflag 64

Registration includes all Items on attached itenerary.

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.

Subj: **Hammelburg Raid 2005**
Date: 4/17/05 4:45:37 AM Central Daylight Time
From: PDomes
To: major.b@att.net
CC: gs@film-photo-ton.de, jsuds@comcast.net, Martinheinlein, THO7448, bwarthen@cybersouth.com

Hello Eileen and Abe,

I hope you both doing fine. We just want to inform you that we had a great performance on 26 March 2005 in Gemünden. About 900 people came to see the film about the liberation of Gemünden and Hammelburg by the 14th Armored Division. Martin and me showed the powerpoint presentation (you had seen in in Minneapolis). Some people came and told us their experience about the Raid. So we still in a process to iterview this people.

Dr. Jim Sudmeier was also there and he was overwhelmed by the event. The interest of the people and their friendliness was unbelieval.

Our cooperation Partner the Film-Photo-Ton Museumsverein will produce a video in NTSC format with English spoken narration. When it is produced we would like to send you a copy. **Do you prefer a video tape or a DVD? Please send a short note that the people can produce you the corresponding material.**

Our next event will be our participtaton at the Bonnland Fesitiviy on 18th & 19th June 2005. We will exhibit original vehicles and weapons (e. g. Sherman, Hetzer,.) show again the movie. We can't believe how fascinating the people are about Task Force Baum and the Hammelburg Raid. We expect about 30,000 visitors at this weekend. If we can produce a video about the Bonnland Festivity, we shall send you one as well.

We shall end the year with another fine event. We plan to drive the route of Task Force Baum from Aschaffenburg to Hammelburg in original vehicles (about 9 Jeeps). We have cotact to some people who collect Jeeps. So we plan to do our Raid on 22nd & 23rd of October. The first day will go from Aschaffenburg to Gemünden and the second day will go from Gemünden to Hammelburg. fl shall organize that we can use the original route - even the nowadays forbidden roads. I hope also that we shall have a origianl US half-track vehicle on the tour. Martin and me plan to do stops and explain on spot what happenened during your Raid. We have information that the Bavarian TV and the local press will join us. During our stop at Gemünden in the ancient Huttenschloss, we shall show the movie again for those who havent seen it yet and have a Powerpoint presentation about the raid.

We wish that you could come. But we fully understand that a people's age brings limitations. I begin to understand what this mean, when the doctors set me a pacemaker last year.

So stay well!

We met a lot of people who want us to tell you greetings. The list is to long to name them all. Yoy met a lot of them during yout tour in 2003 to Germany. I promised them to tell you their "Hello and Hi" when I contact you the next time.

Findest regards from your German friends.

Peter Domes & Martin Heinlein

www.taskforcebaum.de

Sunday, April 17, 2005 America Online: THO7448

Page 7

Subj: **Trip to Europe**
Date: 3/19/05 2:06:38 PM Central Standard Time
From: donlucy@wwnet.com
To: THO7448@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Bob

I sent this message some time back to Bill Warthen and others, but want to be sure you received a copy.

I plan to be in Hammelburg on June 18 & 19 for the event that Peter has described in earlier e-mails. My friend, the gal who helped me take care of Don for almost a year, Charlene, will be traveling with me.

We leave Michigan on May 27 to visit a few of Don's distant cousins in England. We will join a tour group in London on June 3rd that will go to the beaches at Normandy, the site of the Battle of the Bulge, Gen. Patton's grave, Cologne, etc. The tour ends in Berlin, but Charlene and I will stay on and take a train to Hammelburg. We're very much looking forward to this trip. If at all possible, I might also like to follow the route of the march taken in the winter of 1945. If we do that, I would try to find a local car and driver who could help us.

I hope this finds you and Gladys well. We are all fine here in Livonia. It's been a long winter, but spring arrives tomorrow. Hooray! This area of Michigan, alone, had about 80 inches of snow this winter. About twice our average. It came in big bunches at a time--12 inches, 6 in., 8 in., etc. Beautiful, but rather a nuisance.

I'm looking forward to the reunion this year. I'll be getting a left shoulder replacement in July, but expect to be in top shape for the reunion. The doctor said I have no cartilage left in that joint. Bone on bone. Pain almost constant, but I keep on doing what I want. I'm sure there are a lot of other stories out there in our group that are better than this one.

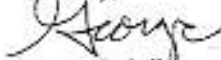
Take good care of yourselves.

Best wishes,
Lucy

Dear Bob,

I appreciate the fact that you continue to remember Irv Yarock in your masthead. Indeed, he was a "good friend" to all of us at Oflag 64. I was having a bit of a problem convincing the analyst processing my application for combat related special compensation (CRSC) that life as a POW was not "good for your health" as the old cigarette ad warned. To add weight to my assertion, I asked Irv to write me a letter, which would support my claim. He wrote right back, forthrightly and vividly. I enclosed his letter with my application and have no doubt it helped get it approved. Here is a copy of Irv's letter. I thought you might like to include it in your next ITEM as a sort of tribute and remembrance to a great guy.

Sincerely,



George Juskalish

IRVING J. YAROCK
51 BARCLAY STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01604

June 6, 2003

Dear George:

I'm sure June 6th is one of the dates indelibly marked in your mental calendar. I remember June 6th 1944 in Oflag 64, but the date also sent me reminiscing. Except for the psychological shock of being captured and the feeling of shame, the nagging kept at me until I saw Colonel Drake at Oflag 64 when he said "you know you can't be captured unless you're close enough to be killed".

In looking back, I think the toughest part of my incarceration was our 360 mile hike from Schubin, Poland to Parchim, Germany. As I recall, the rumor was that we were going by train. However, when we got out on the road we kept hiking in the cold and snow. As usual, food was scarce, but what I hated most was the evening. We would be packed together, immobile, while someone (I never knew who was in charge) was negotiating for a place to sleep. We were too tired to march in place, and we all ended up with frozen feet. I think it was twice we stayed in a barn where the animal heat warmed the building, but most of the time we slept in unheated churches. It was just as cold inside as outside, but at least we were out of the wind. I had two blankets that I folded into a sleeping bag. I would climb in with all my hiking clothes on. After a few hours I generated enough heat into the bag to unlace my boots, which I had to keep inside for security reasons but also if they were outside they would be too stiff to put on in the morning. I don't know how many times I went to sleep praying that I not wake up. At one point the column passed a Russian soldier by the side of the road, frozen stiff, and I'd hate to guess how many people in the column were thinking "why couldn't that be me?" Sometimes, if the person you're talking to has trouble understanding, if you say our march was the time of the Battle of the Bulge, everyone seems to know about the foul weather at that time.

Well, George, I know you had the same experience. What did "D Day" make you think about?

Best wishes,



The following names were returned "undeliverable" as first class mail and we have removed them from our mailing list. If anybody has a reason for their for not being removed we would appreciate hearing from you!!

Bob Bonomi.....Memphis, TN
Sid Waldman.....Cleveland , OH
Leonard Wing.....Rutland VT
Sam Stetson.....Dublin, OH
John Sandford.....La Canada, CA
John Hanna.....Bernardsville,NJ
Heighter Purks.....Paradise, CA
Horace Spaulding..Charles City, IA
LeRoy Ihrie.....Lincoln, NE
Delmer Keck.....Boise, ID
Verris Hubbell.....West Des Moines, IA
Al Frazee.....Inverness, FL
Wilford Boucher.... San Diego, CA
Harris Mauchus

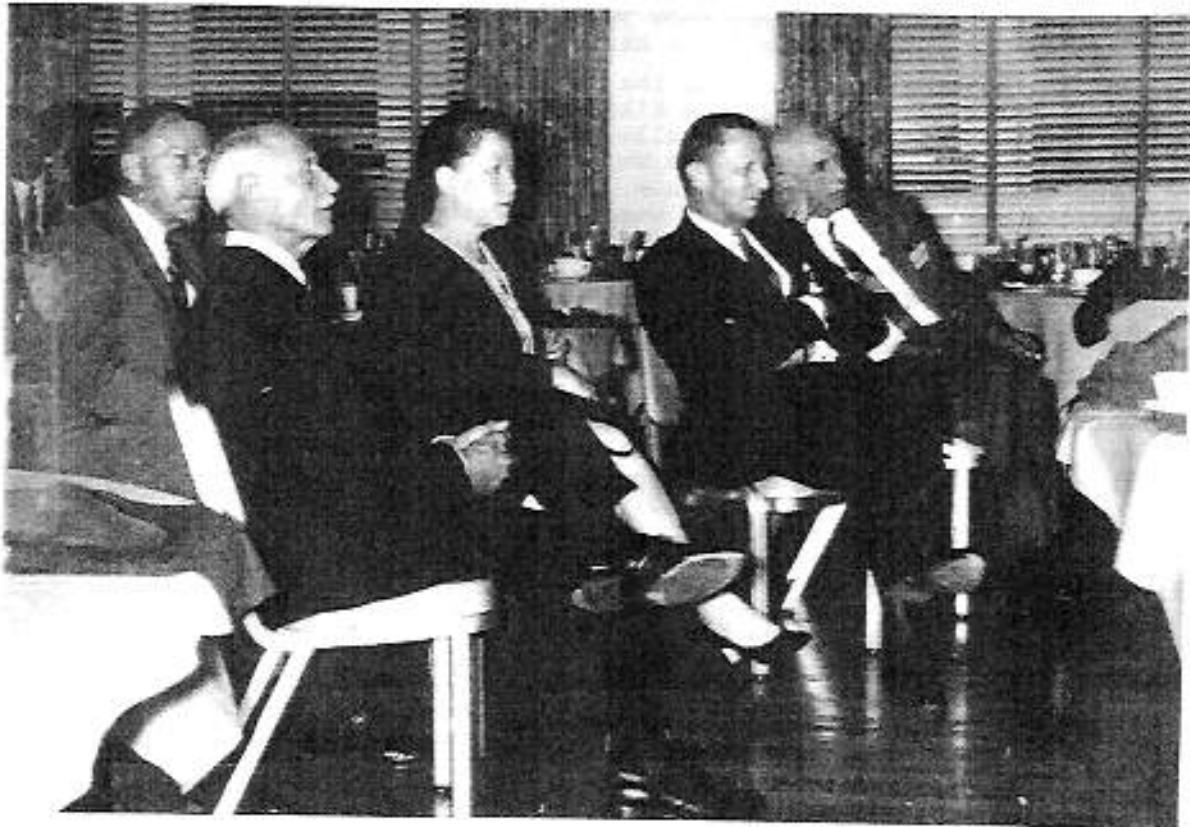
This picture showed up at one our reunions and I am not sure who it belongs to. If the owner will let me know I will send it to you.

John Waters

Tom Drake

???

"Gentleman Jim" Alger Hunsinger??





Ethel Millett

Born in Scotland Co., Missouri on Feb. 19, 1915
Died Mar. 8, 2005 and resided in San Antonio, TX.

Visitation: Saturday Mar. 12, 2005
Service: Saturday Mar. 12, 2005
Funeral Home: Porter Loring Mortuary North
Cemetery: Pending

Ethel "Sally" Millett age 90, passed on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 in San Antonio, TX. She was born in Bible Grove, Missouri on February 19, 1915. Sally was the 10th of 13 children.

She graduated from nursing school in San Diego and was an Army Nurse in the Philippines when WWII began.

Sally was one of 86 Angels of Bataan and was captured and held as a POW for over 30 months. She received numerous decorations including a Bronze Star.

Upon reassignment to Florida, Capt. Blaine met her future husband, Col. Millett, a commander of a Paratroop Regiment during the Normandy Invasion and also a POW in Germany. Col. Millett was a military Attaché in Beirut, Lebanon and Amman, Jordan where Sally assisted him with the diplomatic community for the US government until her husband's death in 1955.

She then spent the next 20 years raising her two sons who later joined the military service to continue Sally's legacy.

Sally was a member of numerous military service organizations including the American Legion, VFW and Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. She was honored and recognized on numerous occasions by the Army Nurse Corps. Sally will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Col George V. Millett, Jr.

Sally is survived by sons, George V. Millett, III, DDS and wife, Ann of San Antonio, TX and William M. Millett and wife, Marisa of Clinton, MD; step daughter, Nancy V. Zellanick and husband, Robert of Escondido, CA; grandchildren, Shay Castilla, Ryan Millett, Angela, Antionette and Mario Millett and Rebecca Griswald; brothers and sisters, Vertee Blaine, Millard Blaine, Madeline Phillips and Maxine Brewer; 4 step grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Women's Memorial, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C. 20042-0560

This Memorial Obituary provided by Porter Loring Mortuary North



Clarence R. Meltesen

Clarence R. Meltesen, Lt Col USA Ret, died Saturday, 7 May 2005 in San Francisco, CA. He was 88 years old.

He is survived by wife, Mary Helena Briggs Meltesen at home; three daughters, Anne C. Trujillo of Santa Rosa, CA, Gayle T. Meltesen of Camas, WA, and Lynne A. Meltesen of Lakewood, CO; a son, Jay H. Meltesen of San Francisco; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; a sister, Mildred Holienbeck of Kenosha, WI; and a brother, Lawrence P. Meltesen of Sonoma, CA.

Col Meltesen combined an Army career with ten years of teaching science in the San Francisco secondary schools. He then wrote and published three books on WWII ground forces officer POWs, their forced marches in 1945 Europe and Darby Ranger escape and evasion after their battle at Cisterna, Italy on 30 January 1944.

He was a member of CNPS, California Native Plant Society; CRTA, California Retired Teachers Association; TROA, The Retired Officers Association; The Sierra Club; DAV, Disabled American Veterans; The Commonwealth Club of California; San Francisco Civil War Round Table; AXPOW, American Ex-Prisoners of War; MOWW, the Military Order of the World Wars; MOPH, Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The family will arrange cremation and a private memorial service locally with subsequent inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery at 10 AM on June 28, 2005. Memorial donations may be made to the American Red Cross.

Sam Gwosden

Sam Gwosden, 84, went home to be with the Lord on March 12, 2003.

Born in McKeesport, Pa., he lived in the Akron area for most of his life. Sam was a high-school teacher for over 30 years, retiring in 1978. A first lieutenant in the Army, he was a World War II veteran and a German POW for approximately a year.

Preceded in death by his sister, Sophia Whims, and brother, Nicholas Gwosden, he is survived by his wife, Catherine; three stepchildren, seven grandchildren; brother, John; sisters, Anna Mae Hoffmeister, Mary Sucha, and Agnes Grieves.

Funeral service Saturday, 2 p.m., at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 565 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Akron, with Rev. Roger C. Ames officiating. Burial at Chestnut Hill Memorial Park in Cuyahoga Falls, where military rites will be conducted. Friends may call one hour prior to services at the church. Memorials may be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church. (Hopkins Lawler, Akron, 330-733-6271.)

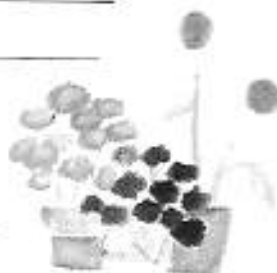
www.hopkinslawler.com

Please sign the guestbook at www.ohio.com/obituaries



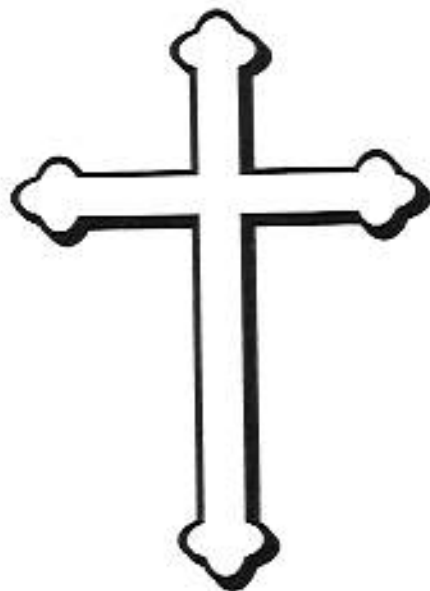
A note from...
Sam & Catherine Gwosden

I should have let you know two years ago that Sam died on March 10, 2003. Please accept my apologies for being so negligent.



*A Service of Celebration
for the life of*

*Elizabeth Goodlett Batte
November 13, 1916 - April 5, 2005*



*April 8, 2005
10:00 am*

*Chapel of the Transfiguration
Penick Village
The Rev. Carol Burgess, Officiant
Mrs. Juanita Smoot, Organist*

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005.

THE PILOT — SOUTHERN PINES,

Elizabeth G. Batte

Elizabeth Goodlett Batte, 88, of Southern Pines died on Tuesday (April 5, 2005) at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 today (Friday) at Penick Village Chapel in Southern Pines. A graveside service will follow at 4 p.m. in Buffalo Cemetery in Sanford with the Rev. Keith Miller officiating.

The family received friends on Thursday, April 7, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Born in Waxahachie, Texas, Mrs. Batte was the daughter of the late David William and Hattie Mae Smith Goodlett. She was a retired elementary school teacher.

Mrs. Batte is survived by her husband, Dr. Edward Batte; daughter, Margaret Batte Moore and husband Graham of Sanford, and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to FirstHealth of the Carolinas, c/o Inpatient Oncology Dept., P.O. Box 3000, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home of Sanford is serving the family.