

Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed wire, towers, and guards.
Drawn by Jim Beckers

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

FALL & WINTER 2006

The Pat & Martha Waters family really put on a reunion in New Orleans. They made a lot of arrangements that required a lot of effort and time. They were operating on the premise that this reunion would probably be our last one, and as of now, it looks like they were correct.

The DDay Museum arrangements alone were fantastic. The hotel arrangements were in addition to the Museum arrangements and were first class.

The Pat Waters family were all involved in the preliminary arrangements and were all first class. Pat's family provided all the pre-reunion chores and did so in a classy manner.

I know that all the members of the OFLAG 64 FAMILY join me in thanking Pat and Martha for all they have done for us in the last 10 years or so. We have all become good friends and wish Pat and Martha the very best for the coming years.



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To the members of the OFLAG 64 FAMILY:

There comes a time when it is necessary to face the facts of life. I think that time is now for me and the Post Oflag 64 Item.

In a year or so almost all the men of The Post Oflag 64 Family will be gone and the families of the members will be the only ones left.

So, in anticipation of the next few years, Elodie Caldwell, Reid Ellsworth's daughter in Longview, Washington has agreed to the publication of the Post Oflag 64 Item .

I will be semi active in the publication , but Elodie will be responsible for it's publication. Stopping dead in your tracks with something you have been doing for 10 years is sometimes a little difficult, but I will be Elodie's assistant for several months in the future.

The decision to continue the Post Oflag Item in the future is something that must be done. And also the decision to continue the reunions is also something for the members to decide. That decision should be handled by the families of the men of OFLAG 64.

Bob Thompson,
Tulsa, OK

Hello OFLAG 64 FAMILY,

By way of introduction, my name is Elodie Caldwell (pronounced like Melodie without the "M"). I am the daughter of Reid Ellsworth who was an Oflag 64 resident from January 1944 until the beginning of the Long, Cold March in January 1945. I live in Longview, Washington and am the administrative assistant (secretary) at a local elementary school. Many of you have heard from me in the past regarding the Oflag 64 web site, updates, announcements, and requests for information.

I've known about Oflag 64 for as long as I can remember but didn't have much by way of affiliation until I typed the manuscript of a book my father wrote about his life which included his war experiences. My most recent affiliation began at the 2004 Reunion in Ft. Lauderdale when I asked Bob Thompson if we might begin an email list to notify individuals of the ITEM being posted to the web. That, we would do after scanning the document and then uploading it to the Oflag 64 web site managed by my brother-in-law, Chris Weatherford. We weren't sure it would be popular, but we thought we'd give it a try and since then our email list has continued to grow.

When Bob approached me about the idea of taking over the production of the ITEM, I was surprised but pleased and grateful for the opportunity to be involved. This will be a way I can be of service to ex-POWs and their families. I will have a lot to learn and a lot of coordinating to do, but I hope you will bear with me as Bob Thompson hands the reins over to me.

So, with all that said, if you have information or stories or anything to include in the next issue of the item, please send them to me at the following address:

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Avenue
Longview, WA 98632

SURVIVORS' REUNION

World War II prison camp forged lifelong friendships



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE
Capt. Abraham Baum led a meagerly staffed raid to rescue Americans from a German prison camp during World War II. The attempt failed, but Baum was treated like a rock star Saturday.

By Meghan Gordon
Staff writer

Organizer wanted to bring money to city

REUNITE, from B-1

Together they endured years of hunger and isolation behind the walls of a German prison camp in Poland, then slogged across 140 miles of wintry terrain just months before the Allied victory in World War II.

Though they shared wartime trauma and lengthy confinement, the aging survivors of the Oflag 64 prison camp dwelt on a different set of memories Saturday as they reunited at the National World War II Museum: They reveled in the camaraderie they cultivated more than six decades ago whilerafting escape plots, outsmarting their guards and, perhaps most of all, managing

to retain the same dignity in their shabby surroundings that they had held on the battlefield.

"We lived through it," said Jimmy Kanaya, 85, of Gig Harbor, Wash. "Why be sorry for yourself your whole life? That's the way I look at it."

Only 24 survivors of the prison camp attended the weekend reunion in New Orleans. Their ranks have dwindled to an estimated 110 men nationwide, said Pat Waters, whose father was confined at the camp and later became the subject of controversy when his father-in-law, Gen. George Patton, sent a secret failed mission to rescue him.

The Nazis sent the first group of U.S. war prisoners to the camp in June 1943. It eventually grew to 1,500 prisoners and was the only camp to house only U.S. troops.

The Germans captured 2nd Lt. Robert Cheatham, now 85, and dozens of other U.S. 1st Infantry Division soldiers as they fought to secure Tunisia on Feb. 19, 1943.

"We just got our butts whipped," Cheatham said from a wheelchair in the lobby of the war museum.

Four months and several temporary camps after their capture, Cheatham and his fellow soldiers became the first prisoners of Oflag 64. From the



Second Lt. Jimmy Kanaya, 85, of Gig Harbor, Wash., joins other survivors of a German prison camp Saturday at the National World War II Museum. "We lived through it," Kanaya said. "Why be sorry for yourself your whole life? That's the way I look at it."

beginning, Cheatham said, imprisoned U.S. officers ordered the lower ranks to maintain their discipline and self-respect by shaving daily, respecting their superiors and following routines to pass the time.

Cheatham never doubted the Allied forces would win the war and he would go home, but he remembers one particularly disheartening moment upon learning that a 1944 assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler had failed. He said the news, heard over a secret radio the POWs dubbed "the bird," made him dread an even longer confinement.

"I've heard people say, 'What a terrible life it was.' And it was," Cheatham said. "But on the other hand, we made friends that lasted forever."

Despite repeated escape attempts, most of the men remained at the prison until January 1945, when the approach of Russian troops from the east forced the German prison guards to evacuate the Polish camp and march its prisoners to the Oflag XIII-B camp in Hammelburg, Germany.

A few weeks into their stay, Patton called on Capt. Abraham Baum to lead a raid on the

prison. But the meagerly staffed "Task Force Baum" was quickly overtaken, with 32 men wounded, nine killed, 16 missing in action and the remaining 294 taken prisoner, said Baum, who attended the reunion.

About two weeks later, a much larger U.S. contingent stormed in and liberated the prison a few months before the end of the European war.

Although his mission failed, Baum was treated like a rock star by the veterans.

"He's the only hero I know, an honest-to-God hero," said retired Capt. O.L. Bradford, 87, of Columbus, Ohio, who spent 18 months at Oflag 64.

Waters, who helped organize the reunion, said he felt pulled to have the event in New Orleans because he wanted to inject some dollars into the storm-

wrecked city's economy while showing New Orleans residents a group of men who are living examples of perseverance.

"They got through it, and they're a wonderful example of 'You're able to do it if you want to do it,'" Waters said.

Meghan Gordon can be reached at mgordon@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3785.

MAIL CALL

First Things First

We made no decision at New Orleans about any further reunions. Abe Baum was considering having it in San Diego but after so much thinking and doing he decided that he had better not do it. And Pat Waters and I agreed with him. Our men are just getting too frail to handle much traveling and excitement. However, Elodie is willing to see if it is the will of all our people, mainly the family members, to have another reunion, but scaled down from what we have been used to. She will contact the Oflag 64 family and get their opinion as to what the future holds for the Oflag 64 FAMILY.

Elodie Caldwell, WA writes that she will be checking with an organization called Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) which helps Veterans and Military plan reunions. Their organization is well recognized in the hospitality industry and they have planned events in cities all over the US. AFR will even secure the hotel and help manage the event. If you have email, please share your thoughts about continuing reunions by writing to her at caldwells@adelphia.net. If you don't have email, please send her a note, expressing your thoughts, to the following address: Elodie Caldwell, 2731 Terry Avenue, Longview WA 98632. Please respond ASAP. She will send a short survey soon also.

Herb Garris, Pinehurst, NC writes that Louise had a fall and has been laid up for several days but is in the recovery stage and seems to be doing fine.

Herb sent his comments about Jack Van Vliet and the trip to the Katyn Forest Massacre area. Herb knew Jack better than most of us. Jack was in Korea as was Herb and they probably ran into each other occasionally. Herb sent a book on the Katyn Forest Massacre that I took to New Orleans and placed in the Hospitality Room. I intended to mention the book in the business meeting, but that also slipped my mind. Somebody took the book and probably took it home. That is fine, but when you finish it, we would appreciate your returning it to Bob Thompson who will send it on the Herb. Herb also sent in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks Herb!

Eleanor Bertrand, Baton Rouge, was at the reunion and she thoroughly enjoyed meeting the people at the reunion.

Robert Moorehead, Wallingford, PA ordered a couple of books and sent a donation to the postage fund. Couldn't make the reunion because of a conflict. Thanks for the donation, Bob.

Bob O'Neill, Prescott, AZ couldn't make the reunion, because of a conflict. He sends in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks, Bob

Martin Jones, Lawrence, KS, wrote a nice letter and also sent in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks, Martin.

Bill Cory, Louisville, KY writes that he enjoyed reading the articles about LTC Jack Van Vliet and the Katyn Forest Massacre. Bill was at Oflag 64 during the same period that Jack was and they knew each other better than most. He said that the story about the massacre was kept silent for many, many years and the article explained a lot of what went on. He sends in a donation to the postage fund and we thank him..

Jonel Hill, Pasadena, CA writes and sends in a nice donation to the postage fund. He had a conflict and couldn't make the reunion. Thanks, Jonel

Mel Rappaport, Douglaston, NY wrote a nice note and sent in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks, Mel.

Michelle Craig, Omaha, NE sends in a donation to the postage fund. Thanks, Michelle.

Woody Bently, Vienna, VA writes and says he was fascinated by the Van Vliet story on the Katyn Forest Massacre. He ordered several of our books and also donated to the postage fund. Thank you for the donation!

DDAY THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM NEW ORLEANS

Thank you for your generous donation of artifacts to The National World War II Museum. The following artifacts were displayed in your name:

Major Newton R. Cole

Maj. Cole was one of the 1,500 prisoners of Oflag 64. A Division Chemical Officer for the 29th Infantry Division, he was captured near St. Lô, France, thirteen days after the invasion of Normandy.

His collection includes many of the items typical to an officer trying to overcome the challenges of POW life: photos and letters from family and life back home plus mementoes of the life he was sharing with his fellow prisoners—flyers from camp theater productions and a “short snorter” (chain of paper currency) with buddies’ signatures. All were tools in their efforts to stave off hunger and hopelessness.

His war log contains drawings and cartoons of camp life, including a comic called “*Mein tag*” (My Day), drawings of pages of his buddies’ dog tags, and a drawing of the ominous German notice “Escape is No Longer a Game,” circulated as the Allies gained ground in Europe and Hitler became more desperate and willing to have escapees killed.

Gift of the Men of Oflag 64, The National World War II Museum Inc. 2006.130

How we came into possession of the artifacts that Newt Cole brought home from Oflag 64.

Lt Col Peter Domes, of the German Army, and a friend of the Oflag 64 and Hammelburg POWs, wrote me (Bob Thompson) an email saying that he saw the articles on E-Bay and that they were for sale. I called Pat Waters, and after a short conversation, we decided that the articles would be a good thing for the DDay Museum to have in their museum.

Pat and I came to an understanding as to their purchase and Pat made the purchase from E Bay and we (Oflag 64) bought them from Pat.

Joe Seringer paid Pat from the Postage Fund and then Joe presented the articles to the Museum at our dinner on Sat Night at the Museum.



The National WWII Museum

September 18, 2006

The Men of Oflag 64
c/o Mr. Robert Thompson
7448 E 68th Place
Tulsa, OK 74133

The National World War II Museum is pleased to inform you that some of the memorabilia that you generously donated is on display in the exhibit *Kriegies: American POWs in Nazi Germany*.

Kriegies: American POWs in Nazi Germany is located on the third floor of the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion and will remain on exhibit through Sunday, October 29, 2006.

The National World War II Museum hopes that you and a guest will be able to visit the museum during this time. Two complimentary admission tickets are enclosed for your use. Thank you for sharing the stories and sacrifices of World War II with the visitors to The National World War II Museum.

Please contact our Registrar, Stacy Peckham, at 504-527-6012 ext. 270 if you have any questions about the exhibit.

Sincerely,

Samuel J. Wegner
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer



This banner flew over the ticket counter in the lobby of the DDAY Museum while we were there
VERY IMPRESSIVE

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OFLAG 64 POSTAGE FUND

Joe Seringer Treasurer

Statement Of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
For the period from September 15 2005 to September 12 2006

Receipts for the period:

Contributions to the Fund	\$ 1758.00
Books	307.00
Interest earned	105.42
Proceeds from 2005 reunion	877.45
Return of advance 2005 reunion	1500.00
Total Cash Received	\$ 4547.87
Disbursements For the Period	:
\	
Copies for the Item	\$ 2186.19
Postage for Item	2306.84
Supplies	701.08
Total Cash Disbursed For the Period	\$ 5193.61
Excess of Disbursements over receipts	\$ (645.74)
Bank Balance September 15 2005	14467.65
Bank Balance September 12 2006	\$ 13821.91

<i>Joe Barrett</i>	
<i>Abe Baum</i>	
<i>Eileen Baum</i>	Wife of Abe Baum
<i>O.L. "Brad" Bradford</i>	
<i>Gail Brown</i>	Daughter of "Brad" Bradford
<i>Robert Cheatham</i>	
<i>William Cory</i>	
<i>John Creech</i>	
<i>Norma Kuhn</i>	Friend of John Creech
<i>Vincent "Doc" DiFrancesco</i>	
<i>Rosa Lee</i>	Daughter of "Doc" DiFrancesco
<i>Pat Cochran</i>	Son-in-Law of "Doc" DiFrancesco
<i>Maria Christmann</i>	Daughter of "Doc" DiFrancesco
<i>Pat Bender</i>	Daughter of "Doc" DiFrancesco
<i>Tom Bender</i>	Son-in-Law of "Doc" DiFrancesco
<i>Reid "Ells" Ellsworth</i>	
<i>Janet Ellsworth</i>	Daughter of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Barbara Richins</i>	Daughter of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Elodie Caldwell</i>	Daughter of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Bill Caldwell</i>	Son-in-Law of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Glenn Ellsworth</i>	Brother of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Ethel Ellsworth</i>	Sister-in-Law of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Mabelle Falter</i>	Sister of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Fred "Bass" Falter</i>	Brother-in-Law of "Ells" Ellsworth
<i>Wayne Fieldsmith</i>	
<i>Tori Glendinning-Pough</i>	Daughter of John Glendinning
<i>Graham Pough</i>	Grandson of John Glendinning
<i>David Glendinning</i>	Son of John Glendinning
<i>Herndon Inge, Jr.</i>	
<i>Alice Inge</i>	Wife of Herndon Inge, Jr.
<i>Errol Johnson</i>	
<i>Cecilia Johnson</i>	Wife of Errol Johnson
<i>Dennis Johnson</i>	Son of Errol Johnson
<i>Becky Johnson</i>	Daughter-in-Law of Errol Johnson
<i>Mary Ann Fox</i>	Daughter of Errol Johnson
<i>Rick Fox</i>	Son-in-Law of Errol Johnson
<i>Curtis Jones</i>	
<i>Norma Jones</i>	Wife of Curtis Jones
<i>Jimmie Kanaya</i>	
<i>Lynn Kanaya</i>	Wife of Jimmie Kanaya
<i>Marcia Kanners</i>	Mrs. Victor Kanners
<i>David Kanners</i>	Son of Victor Kanners
<i>Susan "Sue" Kanners</i>	Daughter-in-Law of Victor Kanners
<i>Ray Klinkenborg</i>	
<i>Nancy Klinkenborg</i>	Wife of Ray Klinkenborg
<i>Herman "Herm" Littman</i>	
<i>Lucy Littman</i>	Wife of "Herm" Littman
<i>Carole Lester</i>	Daughter of "Herm" Littman
<i>Phil Lester</i>	Son-in-Law of "Herm" Littman
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<i>Janet Lowe</i>	Wife of "Lew" Lowe
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<i>Lucy Lussenden</i>	Mrs. Donald Lussenden
<i>Charlene Drozdak</i>	Friend of Lucy Lussenden
<i>George Myron</i>	

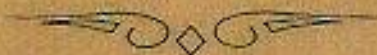
<i>Boyce Nunnally</i>	
<i>Catherine "Kitty" Nunnally</i>	Wife of Boyce Nunnally
<i>Eric Nunnally</i>	Grandson of Boyce Nunnally
<i>George Rosenthal</i>	
<i>Arlene Rosenthal</i>	Wife of George Rosenthal
<i>Isabelle "Bel" Smith</i>	Mrs. Matthew Smith
<i>Lisa Smith</i>	Daughter of Matthew Smith
<i>Robert "Bob" Thompson</i>	
<i>Gladys Thompson</i>	Wife of "Bob" Thompson
<i>Marlene McAllister</i>	Daughter of "Bob" Thompson
<i>Peggy Marlatt</i>	Daughter of "Bob" Thompson
<i>Eric Marlatt</i>	Grandson of "Bob" Thompson
<i>Nancy Wyatt</i>	Daughter of "Bob" Thompson
<i>Mark Wyatt</i>	Son-in-Law of "Bob" Thompson
<i>Robert Thompson, Jr.</i>	Son of "Bob" Thompson
<i>Jay Wagner</i>	Grandson of Ralph Ball
<i>Elizabeth Walters</i>	Mrs. Warren Walters
<i>Sara Ann Ingram</i>	Daughter of Warren Walters
<i>William "Bill" Warthen</i>	
<i>Dorothy Warthen</i>	Wife of "Bill" Warthen
<i>Ellen Warthen</i>	Daughter of "Bill" Warthen
<i>Pat Waters</i>	Son of John K. Waters
<i>Martha Waters</i>	Wife of Pat Waters
<i>Heather Galloway</i>	Daughter of Pat Waters, Granddaughter of John K. Waters
<i>Robert Galloway</i>	Son-in-Law of Pat Waters
<i>Patton Galloway</i>	Grandson of Pat Waters, Great-Grandson of John K. Waters
<i>Geordy Waters</i>	Son of Pat Waters, Grandson of John K. Waters
<i>Kate Waters</i>	Daughter-in-Law of Pat Waters
<i>Caroline Waters</i>	Granddaughter of Pat Waters, Great-Granddaughter of John K. Waters
<i>Robert Pettit</i>	Friend of the Waters Family
<i>Conway Pettit</i>	Friend of the Waters Family
<i>Judy Winkle</i>	Daughter of Bill Whorley
<i>Jerry Winkle</i>	Son-in-Law of Bill Whorley
<i>R.S. "Stan" Woodhurst, Jr.</i>	
<i>Dorothy Woodhurst</i>	Wife of "Stan" Woodhurst Jr.
<i>Joe Seringer</i>	
<i>Patrick Spaulding</i>	Grandson of Hoarce Spaulding
<i>Eleanor Bertrand</i>	Military Historical Tours
<i>Anne Louise Bertrand</i>	Military Historical Tours
<i>Lynn Polgar</i>	Military Historical Tours, Daughter of 13th Armored Div. Veteran
<i>Yvonne Thompson</i>	Military Historical Tours
<i>Col. Van Mayhall</i>	European Theater
<i>Michael Flynn</i>	citigroup SmithBarney, New Orleans
<i>Lynn Flynn</i>	citigroup SmithBarney, New Orleans
<i>Charles Green</i>	Chaplain, New Orleans Support Group
<i>Barbara Green</i>	Wife of Charles Green
<i>Capt. David Herron</i>	Aide to C.G. 4th Marine Division
<i>Kevin Kennedy</i>	Friend of OFLAG 64
<i>Joseph Marriott</i>	citigroup SmithBarney, New Orleans
<i>Diana Marriott</i>	citigroup SmithBarney, New Orleans
<i>Larry McBayer</i>	Friend of the Museum
<i>Gen. Douglas V. O'Dell</i>	C.G. 4th Marine Division
<i>Judy O'Dell</i>	Wife of General Douglas V. O'Dell
<i>Jack Sands</i>	USMC, New Orleans
<i>Martha Sands</i>	Wife of Jack Sands

Pat Waters, in behalf of the OFLAG 64 family, presented me with this plaque at New Orleans. As you can probably understand, I was really flattered and was not able to really express my thanks. I do thank each of you and it will have a place on my mantle at home!!



BRICK FROM CAMP
SZUBIN, POLAND

As this brick served as part of a building that enclosed us as prisoners during wartime, your dedication to "The Kriegies" has served to enclose us as devoted and life-long friends during freedom.



The Men of OFLAG 64 and Their Families
recognize and honor

ROBERT T. THOMPSON

for his stalwart efforts and ceaseless
loyalty in maintaining our unity.

2006 REUNION
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Subj: My letter to Roy and Helen re. Reunion
Date: 10/12/2006 6:58:09 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: donlucy@wwnet.com
To: THO7448@aol.com

Hi Bob. Here is the letter I sent with a description of the Reunion events. Edit it as you would like.

Lucy

From: Lucy Lussenden [mailto:donlucy@wwnet.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2006 2:49 PM
To: 'rjhrclov@earthlink.net'
Subject: RE: Know you had good time at Reunion

Dear Helen and Roy,

I am so sorry to be this late in replying to your e-mail about the Reunion report. I drove home from New Orleans, and the second day I drove straight through from Alabama, which took 11 hours. Didn't stop for lunch and dinner—just ate a sandwich as I drove. I was OK that day—didn't feel tired or sleepy as I drove, but every day since returning home on Tuesday I have been exhausted! Plus, I had to get up early for appointments on Wed., Thurs. and Friday. Now I can finally catch up on my rest. I was just too tired to be able to think and write to you.

Everyone missed you this year, of course. We are so sad that you could not attend, but we understand. The Reunions just are not the same without you two! If we have another reunion next year, we do so hope that you can make it.

Pat and Martha Waters put on a very special and fantastic reunion. The hotel was beautiful—Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. We had a view of the Mississippi River. Everything just went so beautifully and efficiently. Pat arranged for the 4th Marine Support Group (I think I got that right) to send some Marines to us to provide any help that we needed. That included pushing wheelchairs, whatever. These men were just so wonderful. Most, if not all, had served two tours in Iraq already, and are expecting to be sent back for a third tour. The men were just so sharp—looked sharp and were sharp in demeanor, mind, etc. These men stayed with us for the complete reunion, beginning on Wednesday and right through our Memorial Breakfast. They went with us to the World War II and D-Day Museum, and escorted us everywhere. Their Commanding Officer O'Dell spoke to us at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening. He was just wonderful. Looked so good in his uniform and appeared to be a very fine leader. He was proud of his men and proud, also, to be in the presence of our wonderful heroes, the men of Oflag 64. All of his men felt the same way. You know that wherever we have had reunions and visited military facilities, all of today's soldiers strongly admire and respect our Oflag 64 men who served their country to preserve our freedom and protect, not only America, but also other western civilizations (Europeans) who were at risk of being taken over by the Nazi regime.

Pat and Martha provided the Oflag 64 men a bag of "goodies" especially designed for them, and to all the women and other men a beautiful large "tote" bag in a deep red with "OFLAG 64" on it. Inside each bag was an umbrella—just in case of rain! In our envelopes were a list of the people attending and a large list of restaurants open in New Orleans, with recommended ones specially marked. That was a great help to all. The list of attendees included the children and other family members of the POWs. Most of Bob and Gladys Thompson's family came, as did "Doc" DiFrancesco's, Reid "Ells" Ellsworth, Bill Warthen, and many others. The Waters son and daughter were there, each with their spouse, and two of the grandchildren. One of the little boys of Heather and Robert Galloway came, and was so cute. I guess it is OK to say that the 18-month old little girl of Pat's son, Geordy and his wife Kate Waters was the "belle of the ball." She had been pushing around her stroller and walking with it, but while at the Reunion pushed away the stroller and began to walk on her own! She was unsteady, but did not falter! She just kept walking (in the funny little way that babies walk when they have just begun to do so), and walking around with a big smile on her face. She certainly captured a lot of hearts there. Heather's little boy looked so splendid in his "dress up" clothes with a shirt, tie, suit coat, all topped off by his beautiful blond—almost white—head of hair. I know that Pat and Martha

Friday, October 13, 2006 America Online

were just so proud and pleased that their family had been able to attend with us.

At our business meeting on Friday morning, the Marine honor guard presented the colors. They looked wonderful. They did not leave the colors in the room, because, as Pat told us afterwards, Marines never let go of the flag. So they took the colors with them and brought them back to retire the colors at our Memorial Breakfast on Sunday. Of course, our "family" stood to honor the flag, sang the National Anthem and then sang God Bless America. The Marines told us that they were really touched by our singing, especially God Bless America, and said that the hair stood up on their arms as they listened to us.

Back to the beginning of the Reunion. Pat had arranged for a very large Hospitality Room, the Belle Chase Room. Plenty of space to move around and talk. The room was open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. and refreshments were available the whole time. A beautiful buffet breakfast was provided each day.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, buses departed from our hotel to the National World War II Museum. Shuttles were available to and from the museum and hotel each afternoon, so anyone who was tired or whatever could go back to the hotel. The Waters had arranged for a lady from a local tour company to come to us and met with folks to arrange for whatever tours they wanted to take. For example, a tour to the swamp, tours to gorgeous and preserved Plantation Homes, City tours, etc. Everyone was very happy with her services and the tours.

My friend, Charlene, and I took a 3 hour tour through the devastated areas of New Orleans. I know that sounds gruesome, but we just wanted to see with our own eyes what we have been seeing on television and in the papers. The van drove through about every neighborhood that was affected, and I can tell you that we were absolutely stunned. After we got back to the hotel, I still could not comprehend what I had seen! It is just absolutely horrible and beyond imagination. The tour guide told us that there were more than 250,000 homes affected by the hurricane and flooding and these homes were mostly all uninhabitable. (My city of Livonia, with 100,000 population, has about 38,000 homes in 36 square miles. Imagine every house in Livonia and multiply that times seven!) These homes were not only owned or rented by folks in the Ninth Ward, where most are poor, but also in the more up-scale neighborhoods. We saw homes in beautiful neighborhoods where the first floor was gutted or had not yet been gutted and were waiting for the insurance company to complete negotiations with them. In fact, our tour guide said that her home had been hit, and explained the grief of dealing with her insurance company who only want to pay a stipend for the home. She has had mold inspectors in her home 3 or 4 different times, for example, plus flood damage inspectors, wind damage inspectors, and on and on. Now, she and her husband are well educated and sharp, and still they have had a very difficult time getting the insurance company to do the right thing! Imagine what it must be like for other people not as fortunate as she? Another reason more people have not returned to their homes is that utilities are still not available in their neighborhoods!

At the business meeting on Friday, Bill Warthen gave the welcoming remarks and Pat Waters spoke as well. Bob Thompson brought up again this year the question of whether people wanted these reunions to continue or have this be the last reunion. Not being ones to give up, the attending men of Oflag 64 voted to try and have at least one more reunion. Abe Baum offered to host the reunion next year in San Diego, if he could put it together at a price we could afford. He suggested possibly taking a little cruise. In this way, people wouldn't have far to walk, and it would not necessitate his having to make all the arrangements for dinners, tours, etc. As Abe explained, more folks want the time to sit with each other and visit, hash over old memories, etc. and not go on tour after tour. This would also make Abe's job of organizing the tour easier with less work. After all, almost everyone now is in their 80s or 90s. He will investigate this possibility and let us know what he has learned. After the meeting, buses were available to take folks back to the museum, if they had not been there yet or had not seen everything. By the way, the museum was great and still growing. There were short films to see of both Theaters of the War, which also were excellent. On Friday evening we attended a Cajun Buffet Dinner in the Versailles Ballroom at the hotel. The food and service were excellent.

Saturday, a Panel Discussion featuring 3 of our POWs was held at the Museum, open to the public, and was well attended. Herm Littman, Bill Warthen, and Abe Baum consisted of the panel. They did a very good job of telling a little about where and how they were captured, life in the camps, and other things about their captivity. It was well done and appreciated by the large group that attended. In fact, a local newspaper reporter was there, as was a representative with movie camera from the local Fox News channel. That evening a few sound bites of the Panel

discussion and our POWs were shown on the television, and in the next morning's local paper there was a story and photograph. Regretfully, I did not get a copy of that paper. I think it was the Times Picayune. I believe that one of Doc DiFrancesco's daughters, had the paper. Maybe Bob will print it in the next Oflag Item. That evening, we enjoyed a Cocktail Hour and sit-down dinner back at the Museum. The evening was sponsored by Citigroup Smith Barney of New Orleans. Pat Waters worked for many months to get a group to sponsor this event, and what a great party it was. Our major speaker was Douglas V. O'Dell, Major General USMC Reserve, Commanding General, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans. He is the same person who spoke with us on Wednesday evening and whose men were helping us during our visit.

On Sunday morning we had a seated New Orleans-Style Breakfast in the Versailles Ballroom, followed by our OFLAG 64 2007 Memorial Service. A keyboard was played by one of the Marines to accompany us through our singing. Charles Green, Chaplain, New Orleans Support Group, conducted the service. The names of the men who had passed on during 2004 and 2005 were read, and a Marine tolled the bell. That list included my Don who had departed this world in 2004. The colors were retired by the USMC.

Saying good-by to each other was poignant, as it is on each of these occasions. We surely hope to see all of these same "family members" and more at next year's Reunion, if one is held.

I am sure that I have missed some important things that happened at the Reunion. Hopefully this brief message will give you at least some idea of the spirit and events that occurred. Perhaps others will send notes to you which might fill in any gaps that I have left.

We surely do hope that you both will be able to attend next year's Reunion. We pray for your good health and look forward to seeing you. Helen, we missed your piano playing at the Memorial Breakfast, and Roy's big cowboy hat, his shorts, and quick sense of humor. We send our love and hope to talk with you soon.

Love,
Lucy

From: rjhrclov@earthlink.net [mailto:rjhrclov@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 8:55 AM
To: Don Lussenden
Subject: Know you had good time at Reunion

DEar Lucy,

Bob Thompson sent us pictures of the Reunion. So great to see the whole "gang"—

The reports indicate a wonderful time—

When you have time, we are eager to hear details—

Sending Love—Roy & Helen C.

Subj: Szubin
Date: 10/20/2006 1:53:57 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: jackiepettigrew@charter.net
To: TH07448@aol.com
CC: TH07448@aol.com

Hello, Bob - I'm sending you this e-mail to let you know how my trip to Szubin was. My sister and I flew to Warsaw, and had a guide and a car take us over to a small city near Szubin to stay for the couple of days so that we would be in the area. I had made all the preparations before, so the morning that we drove over to Szubin, we were met, and I was so excited. I had hoped to be able to meet Stanislaw Mankowski, and he was the first person that met us. We went into the museum, and the director, a darling young lady, was waiting for us, and she had a friend with her who speaks English. Also there, were the local newspaper photographer, and the Museum's historian. The first place that we went was to the "farm" where the prisoners spent the first night. Stanislaw and his family were the caretakers at that time, and took care of the ones that either escaped that first night, or were too weak to travel. I took lots of pictures, and have made a CD of them, and would like to send you a copy. It is a Power Point slide show, and I think that most computers will play it. We also met the ex-mayor of Szubin, as he and his family are the present caretakers of the property. In Poland, this large estate house is called a "Castle" - it is in bad need of repair. Then they all took us to the prison, and I took lots more photos. Then back to the museum, to look around, and we presented them with a diary that my Dad kept while he was a prisoner, and with a beautiful box that had been given to Daddy by a Polish family near there. We thought that some of the family's descendants might recognize it, and wanted it to be there in the museum. The slide show is self-explanatory, and I hope that you enjoy it. We loved all the folks that we met - they are so friendly, and we SO MUCH appreciated what they had done for our men. Stanislaw is like another brother now. I have sent a check to the museum in Honor of Stanislaw and his family, and in memory of our Dad. It was a wonderful trip, and I hated to leave.

I don't know which barn you were in, but there are only 2 there now, and I took pictures of them both. I have your address, so I will mail the CD tomorrow.

Thanks for all your advice and help in my researching for the trip back in history. It's one that I will never forget. Stanislaw remembers well when the men were there, and my Dad stayed with them 11 days until he was able to travel. He remembered lots of things that they said and did. He was 12 years old at the time the men were there.

Thanks again, - Jackie Pettigrew, daughter of Perry Swindler.



This is John Creech in his garden at Oflag 64.

Oflag 64 - 2006
People looking for POW Information
ON.....

George Cobb

Subject: Oflag 64 Roster
From: "Tom Cobb" <gtcparl@sc.rr.com>
Date: Wed, August 23, 2006 7:53 am
To: oflag64admin@weatherfordfamily.net
My father George A Cobb, 2nd Lt. 179th Reg. 45th Division, was a POW from about Feb. 1944-Spring 1945 at Oflag 64 or 21B Schubin (moved to Usedom) Poland, Altburgund. Does he show up on any of your rosters? Is there any one in your organization who may have known him? He later served in the occupation in Frankfurt, Munich and the Korean war, retired in 1960 and died in 1967. I am trying to recreate his story for family posterity. His military records were apparently destroyed in the 1973 fire in St. Louis. Thank you for any help you be able to offer.

Isaac "Ike" Franklin

Subject: Ike Franklin, POW at Oflag 64
From: "Sharon Hutchison" <sharonhutchison@netpowwow.com>
Date: Wed, February 15, 2006 10:41 pm
To: oflag64admin@weatherfordfamily.net

My father, Isaac Earl (Ike) Franklin, was a POW at Oflag 64 for about 20 months, and I am wondering if you have any information that would include his name. I just found your website tonight. My father passed away in 1990, and I am trying to piece together the story of his wartime experiences. He has a namesake born in 2004, and I would like to be able to leave a legacy of information for little Isaac about his great grandfather. Thank you for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,
Sharon Hutchison

Lory Lester McCullough

From: "ROBERT LAY" <rlay@cfl.rr.com>
To: "Elodie Caldwell" <caldwells@adelphia.net>
Subject: Re: Mailing List Updates
Date: Thu, 10 Aug 2006 22:36:56 -0400
Elodie, My name is Robert S. Lay, and my wife is Patricia McCullough, Her father Major Ret., now deceased, Lory Lester McCullough of 82 Airborne Division, was a POW at Oflag 64.

Please keep us on the list and our email is correct at rlay@cfl.rr.com Any help in finding anyone that might have remembered Mac McCullough would also be appreciated.

Thanks,
Bob Lay

Nick Rahal

Subject: My Uncle Nick Rahal
From: "Tim Kaiser" <timothyjkaiser@yahoo.com>
Date: Sat, March 4, 2006 10:57 am
To: oflag64admin@weatherfordfamily.net
"Nick Rahal" <nrahal@charter.net>

My Uncle Nick was a POW at Oflag 64 from the Spring of 1944 to January 1945 when the Germans closed the camp. He marched for about a week, but developed a serious leg problem and was taken by Rail transport to Luckenwalde. I am not sure he even knows about your organization.

I have been compiling all the information I can on him. Do you have any records on him? I have had difficulty in obtaining his service records, so anything you might have would be helpful.

Also, can you include him in any correspondence that you may have? I would appreciate if you could keep me informed as well. Let me know what I can do. I have been compiling his memoirs for the past year and would be happy to share anything I may have with you. He also had a POW diary he compiled from March 1945 through the end of his captivity. It has been entered onto the computer as the original is with my uncle.

I thank you. Please feel free to email me or contact me at 203-733-6761. My uncle has been copied on this email.

Tim Kaiser

William A. Shular, Jr.

Subject: Database Listing of POWs on Web
From: "Mary Hopper" <mhopper1@sc.rr.com>
Date: Fri, October 20, 2006 3:56 pm
To: oflag64admin@weatherfordfamily.net

Hello, my Dad, William A. Shular, Jr. and Dale S. Barton, escaped together by going across

Poland to Odessa, Russia. While at Oflag 64, Dad was a volunteer tailor.

According to Military Records, my father was captured at the Battle of Anzio, Italy 18 March 1944 and held at two other POW camps before being transported to Oflag 64, arriving there 19 August 1944. Dad and Dale Barton escaped and were returned to military control in March 1945. Here is a bit more information on my Dad: His POW # 3181—I have attached a copy of his POW card --I hope you can use it. Unfortunately, he is suffering from advanced Alzheimer's Disease. His physical condition is good, however.

Thank you for all the efforts done on behalf of my father and other brave "The Greatest Generation."

I would really enjoy hearing from anyone who cares to write.

Mary Shular Hopper
Conway, SC
mhopper1@sc.rr.com



Horace Spaulding

Subject: Grandson of an OFLAG 64 veteran
From: patrick.spaulding@us.army.mil
Date: Sat, August 5, 2006 1:23 pm
To: oflag64admin@weatherfordfamily.net
gpwaters@aol.com

Hello,

My name is Patrick Spaulding. I'm the grandson of Horace Spaulding a veteran of WW II and a former prisoner at OFLAG 64. I'm a CPT (P) in the US Army stationed out in Los Angeles as a Recruiting Company Commander. I'm looking for people who knew my grandfather. He died about a year and a half ago. He was very much loved by his family and friends. If someone could somehow put me in contact with someone who knew him it would be greatly appreciated. I want to write a memoir about my grandfather and his life. The two of us (my grandfather and I) discussed doing this, but he died soon after discussing it and sadly it never materialized. Thank you, I appreciate your time, and hope to hear from you.

Pat Spaulding

Perry Swindler

Subject: trip
From: "Jackie Pettigrew"
<jackiepettigrew@charter.net>
Date: Wed, March 1, 2006 11:31 am
To: oflag64admin@weatherfordfamily.net
My father, Perry D. Swindler, was in Oflag 64 prison camp, and my sister, brother, and I are planning a trip to Poland, and to Oflag 64 this year. We are still a military family, my brother is retired from the Army, and my sister and I each married West Point graduates. My son, and her 2 sons are also graduates of West Point, and 1 grandson enters this summer. We would really appreciate any information that you could give to us regarding the trip to Schubin. Have you been there, and are there any trips being planned to go there? I thought that maybe some of the children of the ex-prisoners would like to keep in touch. I would like to hear from you. Thanks - Jackie Pettigrew

My e-mail address is
jackiepettigrew@charter.net

William Whorley

From: winklejj@comcast.net
To: caldwells@adelphia.net (Elodie Caldwell)
Subject: Oflag Item on line
Date: Sun, 27 Nov 2005 23:17:11 +0000

Thanks so much for this huge undertaking. I was able to read it today. Hope you can work out the kinks and get it a little smaller. Thank you for your time in getting this done. I am the daughter of an ex-POW. My father William Whorley was in Oflag 64 from June 1944 until he escaped during the march out in January 1945. He died in 1968, never talked about those days. I began my search to learn about his experiences in 1994. I haven't been able to attend any of the reunions but hope the 2006 will be my first. I have corresponded with many of the men who knew my father and I would like to meet them in person. Again thanks for your wonderful service to us all in getting this on line. Judy Whorley Winkle

OFLAG 64 Web Connection

Following the 2005 POW Reunion in Ft. Lauderdale, an Oflag64 web site was established by Chris Weatherford. On the site (www.Oflag64.org) you will find:

- Past ITEMS
- An ITEM archive
- Articles
- POW Bulletins
- Printing instructions
- Contacts
- Links to articles, stories, etc. relating to Oflag64
- Pictures of Oflag64 as it looks today
- "Looking for Lost Men" roster/database

We are continuing to add information weekly and will soon be adding more ITEMS from the past, other Red Cross Bulletins, as well as the pictures that Lucy Lussenden took on her trip to Germany in 2005 as she drove the route the men took on their march.

Many people are discovering our site and are making connections they weren't able to make before now. We're happy to be of service to them as well.

If you have information that you would like included on the web site, please email Chris Weatherford at: oflag64admin@weatherfordfamily.net or email me (Elodie Caldwell) at: caldwells@adelphia.net and we'll coordinate our efforts. You can also email me if you would like to receive Oflag64 notifications or a copy of our most current roster (in Excel format).

Thanks to everyone for the great information we have already received. If you have suggestions or comments, please email Chris Weatherford or me at the email addresses listed above.

Sincerely,
Elodie Caldwell

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Baltimore, MD 21218-2686
USA

July 24, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I am writing to let you know that Gottfried Dietze died in June. I don't have any additional information about his death but I found your newsletter in his mail and thought you should be informed.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Otterbein

Mary J. Otterbein
Administrative Assistant

In Loving Memory Of
Leonard H. Warren
September 15, 1913
March 12, 2006

On Eagle's Wings

And He will raise you up
on Eagle's wings
Bear you on
The breath of dawn
Make you to shine
Like the sun
And hold you in
The palm of His hand.

Richards & Brady Funeral Homes

July - 2006
With sadness, I report the passing of
my husband, B/Gsn. Leonard F. Wing Sr.
on April 30, 2005 -
Under separate cover, I will send you
his obituary. Also an article about
his experiences at POW camp which
appeared in our local paper -

Sincerely,
Mary A. Wing

Paul C. Miller 1920 -2001

Paul C. Miller, noted authority on military ceremonies and protocol died September 29th in Arlington, Virginia. Cause of death was cardio-respiratory arrest. He was 81. Mr. Miller spent twenty-five years as the Director of Ceremonies and Special Events for the Military District of Washington. In this position he planned and supervised the State Funerals of Presidents Kennedy, Eisenhower, Truman and Johnson. He planned and conducted for The White House many state ceremonies for visiting Heads of State. He was involved in every President's inaugural from President Truman to President George H. W. Bush. He was involved in the National Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1976, and the Yorktown Bi-Centennial in 1981. He was the recognized expert in matters of ceremony, protocol and military traditions.

Paul Miller was born in Canton, China of missionary parents. He grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he met Marie Bertzel, his wife of 55 years. He gave his life to Christ during the Christmas holiday of 1934. He joined the National Guard in 1937 and served in the Army for 20 years, rising from Bugler to Infantry Battalion Commander. He was captured at Anzio, Italy and remained a POW until liberated by the Russians in Poland.

Upon his retirement from the Army in 1960 he became the Director of Ceremonies and Special Events at the Military District of Washington. In the twenty-six years while he was the guiding hand of thousands of ceremonies and special events for Presidents and Kings, he always gave equal care and attention to ceremonies involving the soldier, sailor, airmen, marine or coastguardsmen. He insisted on absolute perfection to the smallest detail regardless of rank or position of the person being honored. "He walked with Kings but never lost his common touch," to paraphrase one of his favorite poets.

His awards and decorations include The Silver Star, The Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge. His numerous civilian awards include The Presidential Citizen's Medal and the Department of Defense Civilian Service Medal.

Paul and Marie were married in 1946 at Fort Myer, Virginia. They have four children and four grandchildren. Paul was active for 40 years in Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA, serving in many capacities, including Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Sunday School Teacher and Director. For the last two years, he was a member of Downtown Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA. He served for 20 years as President of the Board of Covenant Village, a Christian retreat center in Bedford County, P A, serving congregations and inner city kids from the Metro DC area.

OFLAG 64
2006 REUNION



NEW ORLEANS
SEPTEMBER 13-17

_____ At this time, we do plan to attend.

Please list names of those tentatively planning to attend.

Richard Meskell, my husband
died June 13, 1999, is buried in
Florida National Cemetery in
Buckner, Florida 33513 (904) 793-7740
we will be unable to attend the reunion.

Please sign

Stephanie Meskell