

Post **Oflag 64** Item

2007 - FALL

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Oflag 64 Reunion Update Tulsa OK October 11-14, 2007

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

Time is fast approaching for our annual Oflag 64 Reunion in Tulsa and we'd love to see you all there. If you're planning to come but haven't registered yet, it's not too late, but we need you to send in your registration form and fees ASAP. (Remember, the form you filled out and sent in earlier this year was for headcount purposes only.)

Checks for \$150 per attendee should be made out to: **"2007 Oflag 64 Reunion"** and should be sent along with the registration form to:

Bob Thompson
7448 East 68th Place
Tulsa OK 74133-7713

This ITEM will be the last one published prior to the reunion so registration forms will only be available by special request after distribution or through the website at www.oflag64.org. Please refer to pages 2 and 3 of this ITEM for the Reunion Itinerary and Registration Form.

A couple of questions have also come up...first, there may or may not be airport shuttle service provided by the Marriott, so be prepared to arrange for transportation if need be. Second, in terms of meal selection, several choices will be available for the Saturday evening meal. You'll be able to make your choice at Reunion check-in time.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

All the best,
Jay Wagner

REUNION BUSINESS

2007 OFLAG 64 Reunion

October 11-14, 2007

Registration Fee: \$150 Per Person

Marriott Southern Hills Hotel

1902 East 71st

Tulsa OK 74136

To make your hotel reservations, please call:

866-242-5060

Room Rate: \$84 per night (incl. tax)

(Tell them you're with the Oflag 64 Reunion Group)

Thursday October 11, 2007:

Hospitality Room Open All Day

2pm-4pm

Registration at Marriott Southern Hills

4:45pm

Depart for Evening Event at Wagner Residence

5:15-8:30 pm

*Dinner and Entertainment
(Courtesy of The Wagner Family)*

8:30-9:00pm

Return to Marriott Southern Hills

Friday, October 12, 2007:

Hospitality Room Open All Day

8:00am-9:00am

Breakfast on your own

9:00am-11:00am

Business Meeting and Luncheon

11:00am-3:30pm

Free Time

3:30pm

Buses Depart for Will Rogers Museum

4:15pm--8:15pm

Dinner and Entertainment

8:15pm

Depart for Marriott Southern Hills

Saturday, October 13, 2007:

Hospitality Room Open All Day

Until 9am

Breakfast on your own...

9am-1pm

*Tulsa Tour (Optional \$10 + lunch per person)**

6pm-9pm

Banquet and Entertainment

Sunday, October 14, 2007:

8am-9am

Breakfast in Hotel Ballroom

9am-10am

Memorial Service

10am

Departures

**Not included in registration fee*

Reunion Registration Form

Name: _____

Guests: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please send your checks for \$150 per attendee payable to “2007 Oflag 64 Reunion” to:

***Bob Thompson
7448 E. 68th Place
Tulsa OK 74133-7713***

A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

Barracks Layouts

Thanks to those who have sent information so far about where Kriegies resided while at Oflag 64. If you could also send a rough drawing/layout of your building or barracks, that would be very helpful. Please send information to Elodie Caldwell at the address on the front page of this issue.

Kriegy Pictures/Names

We are currently working on a project that will hopefully enable us to put pictures of our Kriegies, then and now, on the Oflag 64 web site. (Pictures of some our men have already been submitted to Ed Marek for his "Talking Proud" website.) It might be something that will help Kriegies and their families find lost Kriegy friends. Please let Elodie Caldwell know what you think about this project and if it's something you would like to see happen.

Oflag 64 Needs YOU!

At the last reunion in New Orleans I passed on the job of putting out the Item to Elodie and have since then also given her the job of keeping the mailing list up to date. Elodie has done a super job of preparing the Item and now is the time for the rest of the duties to be handed off to somebody.

Joe Seringer is still the treasurer and has said he would continue as long as he is able. He has done the job for around 25 years, but there is a time and a place for everything. Somebody should volunteer to take the job when Joe decides to quit.

The Item has been printed and mailed here in Tulsa by commercial firms and it costs about \$700.00 each time for this. Elodie prepares the Item and mails it to me and I handle it from there. This has been a very workable arrangement but how much longer we can do this I don't know, so arrangements must be considered for this job. When Herb Garris was handling the Item, he had volunteers who put the Item in the envelopes and somebody mailed them. A revenue stamp can be purchased from the USPS and then anybody can mail the Item as bulk mail.

These and others are things that will be brought up at the business meeting on Friday at the reunion and they must be taken care of. If they are not.... the Oflag 64 family will cease to exist. Each of you should consider these things and be prepared at the meeting on Friday to make suggestions and volunteer for the job if you so choose. ~ **Bob Thompson, Tulsa OK**

Officers/Reunions

What do you think about electing officers for our Oflag 64 organization? Here's some thinking on possible positions: President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Events Coordinator, and any others we think of. Kriegies and offspring would be able to serve if they chose to do so. Ideas for responsibilities follow:

[President](#) - make important decisions with Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, conduct reunion meetings

[Vice President](#) - make important decisions with President and Secretary-Treasurer, backup for conducting meetings

[Secretary-Treasurer](#) - make important decisions with President and Vice-President, keep financial records for postage fund and other contributions (Joe Seringer currently fills this position and is doing a superb job.)

[Events Coordinator](#) - encourage or find people to volunteer to do the next reunion or work with/through the Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) people for yearly planning. (Other organizations use these reunion people and are pleased with their work.)

Please let Elodie know your thoughts. This might be an item for discussion during the business meeting at the Tulsa Reunion.



MAIL CALL



JOE BARRETT from Maple Shade NJ sent a contribution to the postage fund. *Thanks, Joe, for your generous donation. We appreciate your continued support.*

LYLE J. BOUCK, JR. from St. Louis MO recently wrote that he would like to attend the Tulsa Reunion and asked for an information packet. Lyle was a Kriegy at Hammelburg and was on the second tank of Abe Baum's column from Hammelburg, 27 March 45. *Thanks to Bob Thompson for sending the information packet. And Lyle, we look forward to seeing you at the Reunion in Tulsa. Thanks for writing.*

ROY (TEX) and HELEN CHAPPELL from Kaufman TX sent an email recently which said: "Dear Kreigie Friends, This is the last e-mail I would have chosen to write, but ...we will not be able to attend the Tulsa POW Reunion in October. I have held back admitting this necessary evaluation for Roy's health, but it has to be made. I cry tears as I write, and I know full well how sad we will be to be missing your gathering. No other group in our lives has held the kind of sentimental meaning yours has. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers always. At some point, maybe we can be together. Sending our deepest love always." *We are deeply saddened that we will not see you at the Tulsa Reunion this year and are touched by your thoughts. You will always be in our prayers. Please keep in touch.*

BILL CORY from Louisville KY sent a donation to the postage fund. He also asked about extra copies of the Oflag 64 50th Anniversary book and would like to procure any available copies. Bob Thompson has provided him with contact information from National YMCA Archives for possible copies. *Bill, we'll be in touch if we hear of other sources. Thanks for your donation to the postage fund and for your continued support.*

JOHN L. CRAMER from Cheswick PA sent a short note and donation to the postage fund. John was better known by "Slick", a name he acquired playing a gangster in a British play at Rotenburg, prior to Oflag 64 being ready. *Thanks, John, for your note and updating us on your address. Thanks also for your thoughtful contribution to the postage fund.*

LESTER EDSALL from Sidney OH sent a nice note recently along with a contribution to the postage fund. He said: "I started going to the reunions back in the 80s when we met every 2 years. However, Edie and I aren't able to attend anymore so we both scrutinize the ITEM from front to back, searching for news of dear friends we made in those years. We aren't really in 'bad' health, it's just that we aren't in good enough health to travel great distances. We long to attend Tulsa, but it's out of the question." *Thank you, Les, for your generous contribution and for your nice note. We'll miss you and Edie at the reunion but wish you both well. We love hearing from our Kriegies. Please keep in touch.*

ED GRAF from Grand Rapids MI sent a donation to the postage fund. *Thanks Ed for your thoughtful and generous donation. Your support is greatly appreciated.*

E. R. HEARTFIELD from Fredericksburg TX sent a donation to the postage fund. *Thanks E. R. for your thoughtful and generous contribution. It is very much appreciated.*

GEORGE JUSKALIAN from Centreville VA recently wrote asking about one of our Kriegies, Robert M. Keith, who can no longer be reached at his last known address or phone number. Robert is the one who took the black and white photos of the camp at the beginning of the "The Long Cold March". *George, thanks for writing and for your nice comments about the ITEM. An obituary for a Robert M. Keith is included in this ITEM, but we will continue our search for confirmation.*

MAUREEN LINKOVICH from Winstead CT in a recent email wrote: “I recently received your email regarding the online publication. I'm so glad I signed up for the site. I was especially interested in the recollections of one of the POW's, E. Jerome Alexis. Do you know if he is still alive? If he is, I'd very much like to get in touch with him.” *Thank you, Maureen, for your email and for your kind words. Jerry Alexis is still living and your email has been forwarded to him.*

LARRY MCBRAYER from Slidell LA sent a donation to the postage fund. *Thanks Larry for your thoughtful contribution and for your continued support of Oflag 64.*

ROBERT O'NEILL from Prescott AZ sent a note with attached “funnies” to use in future ITEMS as there is room. *Thanks, Bob, for the “smiles” and for thinking ahead. The “smiles” will come in handy, so watch for them to appear on various pages in future ITEMS, even in this one.*

HERVEY ROBINSON from Green Cove Springs FL sent a donation to the postage fund. *Thanks Hervey for your generous donation and for updating us on your address.*

GEORGE ROSENTHAL from Oldsmar FL sent a donation to the postage fund along with a short note. He and Arlene are looking forward to attending the Reunion in Tulsa. *Thanks, George, for your generous donation to the postage fund. We are very grateful for continued support from our Kriegies. We'll see you and Arlene in Tulsa in October.*

WILBUR SHARPE from Bethesda MD thought he might be able to attend the military tours trip to Europe in September but has decided it might be better, at 85 years of age, to decline due to all the walking that will need to take place. He sends his best to all and is still thinking about Tulsa. *Thanks, Bill, for writing. We hope to see you at the Reunion in Tulsa.*

VERNOR SIEBERT from Nipomo CA sent a donation to the postage fund. *Thanks, Vern, for your thoughtful donation and we hope you'll keep in touch.*

JOHN R. SWETENBURG, JR. first cousin of Robert “Cheerful Charlie” Cheatham wrote: “Thank you so very much for your kind words and for passing on the information relating to Robert Cheatham's death to the members of the Oflag 64 family. Even during his last days he stated that his goal was to get well enough to be in Tulsa for the October convention. You can rest assured that he will be present in spirit.” *To Robert “Cheerful Charlie” Cheatham's family, members of the Oflag 64 Family express sincerest sympathies and heartfelt condolences at the loss of Bob. We will greatly miss him and his warm, welcoming spirit and infectious smile.*

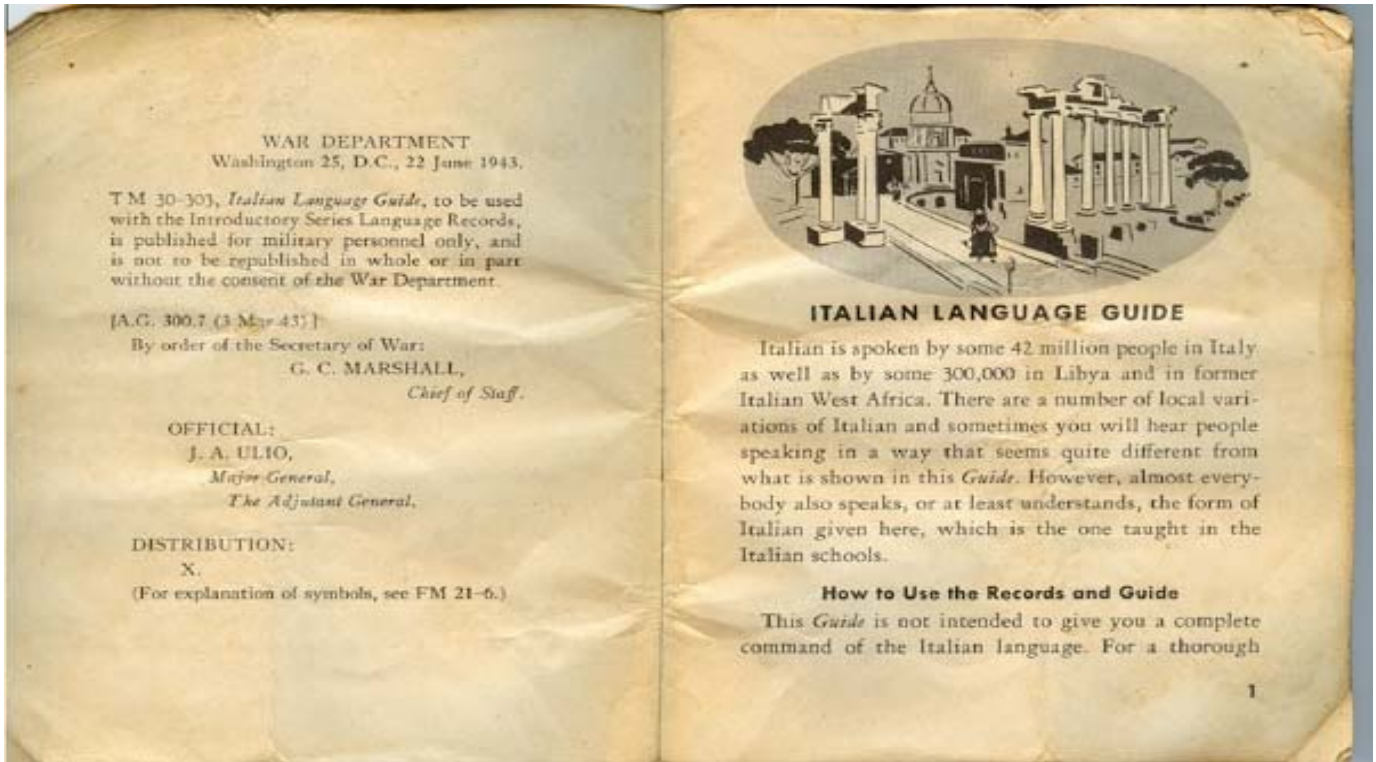
PAT WATERS from Mt. Pleasant SC wrote to say that he and Martha probably won't be able to make it to the Tulsa Reunion due to business conflicts. He and Martha hope to see us in the future, individually or collectively, when schedules permit. *Thanks, Pat, for writing. We'll miss you and Martha at the Reunion this year, but hope to see you both in the future if possible. Keep in touch.*

JUDY WINKLE from Gallatin TN recommended the following WWII Memorial site, which includes a registry for honoring all those who contributed to the war effort during WWII. If you would like to honor family members who served during WWII, please click on this link <http://www.wwiimemorial.com> and fill out the registry information. Enrolling is easy and just takes a few minutes. *Thanks, Judy, for letting us know about this site. What a great tribute to those who served during WWII.*

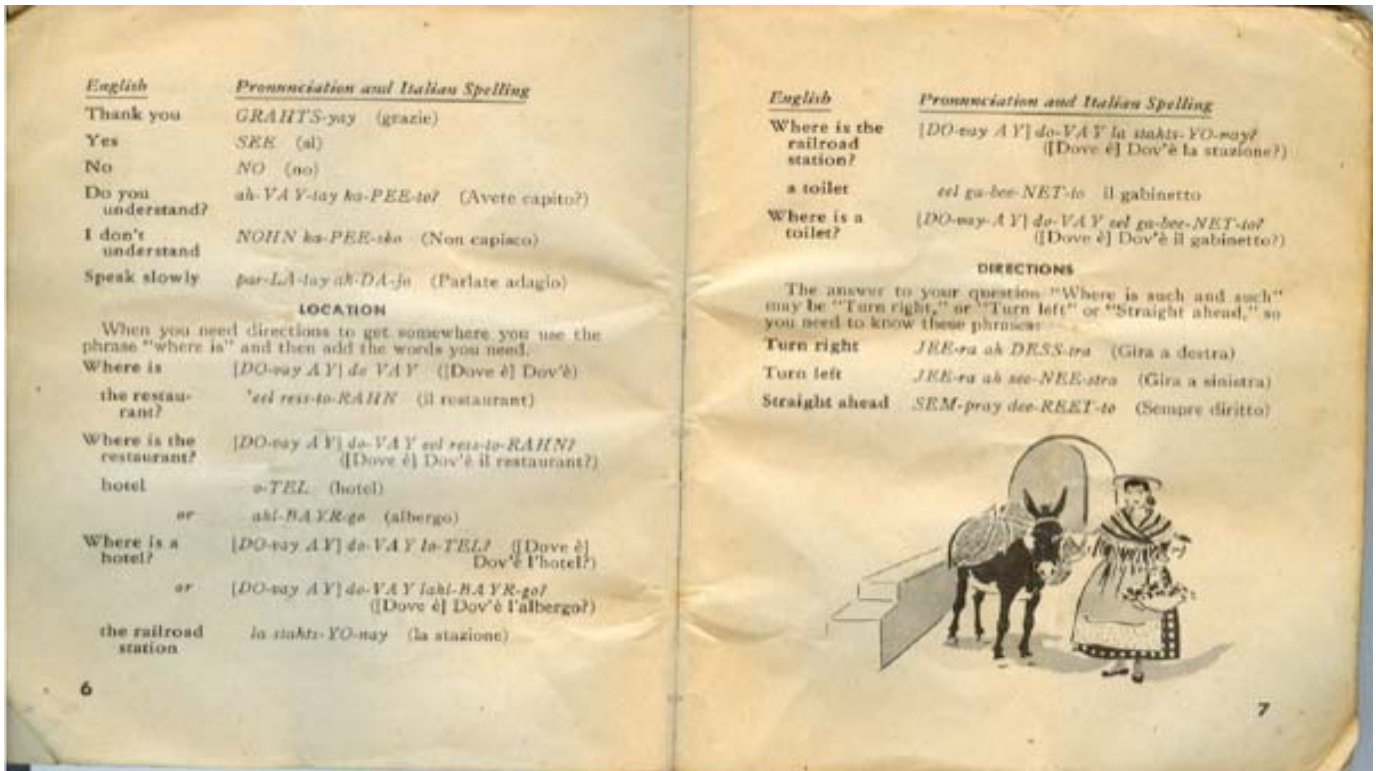
The son and daughters of REID F. ELLSWORTH would like to thank each of you, our Oflag 64 Family, for the outpouring of love and concern you have shown at the passing of our father. The beautiful flowers and many email condolence messages have been sweet and comforting as we've gone through the process of grieving and settling affairs. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

INFORMATION STATION

I became acquainted with a man from Italy who is now an American Citizen and is a software engineer in Palo Alto CA. He returns to Italy every summer to visit his mother and we have become friends. His father was a Lt. and a scout for an American Division in Northern Italy in the war. He sent me a couple of books that I am going to send to the WWII Museum in New Orleans. ~ *Bob Thompson*



English to Italian Guide Book Issued in Italy in 1943



07/23/07

From:
Alberto Pogessi
Palo Alto, CA

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The idea of donating the book to the WWII museum is great. Please go ahead and do that. I am sure that my father would have liked that very much. If they don't already have a copy of "The Road to Rome", I'd be glad for them to have that too.



Here is some info about my father that you may be interested in. His name was Francesco Poggesi. He had graduated from the Italian Military Academy in 1941, at 19 years of age, was immediately shipped to the Russian front as a 2nd Lt. in a Field Artillery battery of the Ravenna Division. When the Russian Christmas offensive was launched, he was the only officer at the battery, because all other officers had been called to the Division headquarters for a briefing on the expected Russian attack. His battery was situated on two small hills, and luckily the Russian armor attack just ignored them, in spite of their anti-tank fire, and went right through their line, in the valley. So, they were cut off from communications with the retreating Italian Army, and in spite of the rest of his Division and most of the Italian expeditionary force being annihilated, while all the Russian effort was pushing westward, he was able to take his guns, a good part of the materiel and the vast majority of the battery's men South in a three-month march to the Black Sea, helped by the Russian peasants who gave them food and sunflower oil as fuel for the diesel trucks and tractors. Near the Black Sea they reconnected with the Italian military infrastructure and went back to Italy on military trains. He was field-awarded the Italian Bronze Cross of Valor, for that evasion march. When he got back to Italy the invasion by the Anglo-American forces was imminent. His unit was restructured into a security force, and on September 7, 1943, his responsibility was to secure one of the military landing strips North of Rome, where the 82nd US. Airborne Division was supposed to land, based on the Armistice agreements, to prevent a German invasion of central Italy. Gen. Eisenhower who apparently had originally agreed to it, withdrew his authorization for the mission, the landing never took place, the Italians did not have enough forces to defend Rome from the Germans, and the Germans eventually occupied Rome and all of Italy north of the Volturno River. Like many other Italian soldiers on September 8, 1943, my father was ordered to disband his unit and to avoid capture by the Germans. He joined a partisan unit in the area, and spent the fall of 43 and part of the winter of 44 with them. Then, still underground, he moved north, toward the area where his family was from (Viareggio). In Viareggio he organized a partisan band with about 40 of his teen-age cousins (his mother had about 18 siblings, most of whom had children more or less his age). He lead the band in the Viareggio marshes throughout the spring of 44 while behind German lines, and then they crossed the frontline southbound to join the 5th US Army which was moving North. Soon they were embedded into the 92nd (Buffalo) division and he was authorized to wear 2nd Lt. bars. Among other infantry "work", they conducted several overnight recon

missions behind German lines along the Gothic Line. One of them turned out to be a long trek to avoid capture and lasted more than two weeks. During that mission he received a flesh wound, but he brought back all the men in his unit, all the men of the US patrol that went with them (the American commanding officer had been wounded rather seriously only hours into the mission, but he made it), and half-a-dozen allied airmen that had parachuted behind enemy lines and had taken refuge with local farmers. Like Tom Sawyer, he got back to Viareggio in time to "interrupt" the funeral services that had been organized for him and for his cousins, all presumed dead. He received the Italian Bronze Medal of Valor, and a honorable mention by Gen. Mark Clark, for that action. After the war he returned to the Italian Army and retired as a Lt. Gen. in 1975.

The two words you are referring to are PAESANO (pah-eh-**zah**-no), some time spelled PAISÀ or PAISA' to reproduce the way it sounds (pah-ee-**zah**) in the Neapolitan and Sicilian dialects, and SIGNORE (sea-**nyo**-ray). They are both standard Italian. PAESANO has an official nationwide meaning (peasant), but in the southern part of Italy it is also used with an extremely familiar, friendly connotation, with a meaning substantially equivalent to MATE for Australians or for BUDDY for Americans. SIGNORE, of course, is the same as the Spanish Señor, and it simply means Mister or Sir, or even Master. It is used throughout the country, as a form of respect.

Yes you had told me about your Italian "upbringing". You have no idea how the fact that GIs like you appreciate some part of the Italian environment, and the fact that Italians to this day appreciate GIs and remember them fondly makes both my Italian half and my American half proud.

Best regards,
Alberto

* * * * *

Where Are They Now?

Some of our Kriegies are missing. Do you know their whereabouts? If you have updated addresses or information on the following, please let Elodie Caldwell know ASAP.

Danielson, Marvin G.	Parker, Julius G.	Vaughn, Garland F., Sr.
Fratzke, Al R.	Searle, Gerald F.	Weintraub, Henry J.
Martin, John R.	Segal, Stanley J.	Wheeler, James H., Jr
	Slagter, Ira R.	

* * * * *

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”
~President Harry S. Truman~

SMILES

Submitted by: Bob O’Neill

A very elderly gentleman, (mid nineties) very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well looked-after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar is an elderly looking lady, (mid eighties). The gentleman walks over, sits alongside of her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, “So tell me, do I come here often?”

These photos of former POWs are from Marshal Zhukov's Memoirs. You may have seen them before. Do you recognize the fourth man from the top boarding the ship? Could he be Sidi Bou? If you know who Sidi Bou is, please let Elodie Caldwell know.

**Photos of
Former POWs
From Marshal
Zhukov's
Memoirs**

Top
American
Officers boarding
The Antenor at
Odessa.



ОСВОБОЖДЕНИЕ!

Center Right
American
Officers on the
road.



Left
Unknown



Bottom Right
British Officers



**Submitted by:
Richard B.
Parker**

Remember This?

Circular)
No. 333)

(Cir. 333)
WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, October 5, 1942.

Check list for military personnel ordered to foreign duty.--1. All military personnel ordered to foreign duty, before departing from their home stations, should have in their possession a check list similar to the one listed below. If the procedure outlined in the check list is followed all military personnel arriving at their oversea destinations will have little if any trouble in getting established at their new stations.

b. So far as possible military personnel will be processed at their home stations before departing therefrom.

2. Check List.--a. Administrative.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| (1) Officer's Identification Card (W.D., A.G.O. Form No. 65-1).--A three-fold card with photograph, fingerprints, signature. | Yes | No |
| (2) Identification tags, metal (two), showing-- | | |
| (a) Full name. | Yes | No |
| (b) Army serial number. | Yes | No |
| (c) Name and address of person to be notified in case of emergency. | Yes | No |
| (d) Date of tetanus inoculation. | Yes | No |
| (e) Blood type. | Yes | No |
| (f) Religion if desired. | Yes | No |
| (3) Power of attorney. | Yes | No |
| (a) General.--For any use but cashing Government checks. | Yes | No |
| (b) Special.--For use only in cashing Government checks. | Yes | No |
| (4) Will.--Officer going overseas should make a will. | Yes | No |
| (5) Statement of service.--If a National Guard Officer or Reserve officer. | Yes | No |
| (6) Four copies of secret orders. | Yes | No |
| (7) Ten extract copies of orders. | Yes | No |
| (8) Passport.--If passport is required do you have one? | Yes | No |
| (9) Visas.--If passport is issued, has it been visaed for all countries in transit? | Yes | No |
| (10) Passport photographs.--Seven extra copies. | Yes | No |
| (11) Information booklets.--Have you been provided with information booklet on the country to which you are going? | Yes | No |
| (12) W.D., A.G.O. Form No. 41.--(Designation or Change in Address of beneficiary). | Yes | No |
| (13) W.D., A.G.O. Form 43.--(Emergency addressee and Personal Property Card). | Yes | No |
| (14) APO number.--Do you have your APO number? | Yes | No |
| (15) Clothing.--Is your uniform complete? | Yes | No |
| (16) Field equipment.--Has complete field equipment been issued to you by the quartermaster? | Yes | No |
| (17) Air priority.--If traveling by air has a priority been arranged for you? | Yes | No |
| b. Financial. | | |
| (1) Allotments.--Have you made allotments of pay to cover any of the following: | Yes | No |
| (a) Self. | Yes | No |
| (b) Dependents. | Yes | No |
| (c) Commercial insurance. | Yes | No |
| (d) National Service Life Insurance. | Yes | No |
| (e) War Risk Insurance. | Yes | No |

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|----|
| (2) | Application for pay reservation for War Bonds. | Yes | No |
| (3) | Uniform allowance.—Are you eligible? If so, do you have copies of statement of service and of original active duty orders? | Yes | No |
| (4) | Mileage allowance.—Are you entitled to mileage from last station? If travel was performed by transportation request, you must have two copies of W.D., T.C. (Q.M.C.) Form No. 207 (Transportation Certificate for Passenger Travel). | Yes | No |
| (5) | Per diem.—Are you traveling on a per diem? | Yes | No |
| (6) | Rental certificate.—Showing nonassignment or termination of quarters at last station. | Yes | No |
| (7) | Pay data card.—Showing pay and allowances. Is it up to date, showing all deductions? | Yes | No |

c. Medical.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|----|
| (1) | Immunization Register (W.D., M.D. form No. 81). | | |
| (a) | Required: | | |
| | 1. Smallpox, one vaccination. | Yes | No |
| | 2. Typhoid paratyphoid, three injections, 1-week intervals. | Yes | No |
| | 3. Tetanus, three injections, 3-week intervals. | Yes | No |
| (b) | When ordered: | | |
| | 1. Yellow fever, one injection. | Yes | No |
| | 2. Cholera, three injections, 1-week intervals. | Yes | No |
| | 3. Typhus, three injections, 1-week intervals. | Yes | No |
| (2) | Blood type.—Blood type should be shown on register and identification tags. | Yes | No |
| (3) | Dental attention.—All teeth should be checked for cavities and taken care of before departure. | Yes | No |
| (4) | Glasses.—If glasses are worn, an extra pair should be carried. | Yes | No |
| (5) | Physical inspection. | | |
| (a) | At home station. | Yes | No |
| (b) | At port of embarkation. | Yes | No |

Physical inspection to be made at port of embarkation if 48 hours have elapsed since physical examination at home station.

3. Military personnel ordered into Washington, D.C., prior to their departure for an overseas station will contact the A.G.O. Travel Bureau and have the status of their processing checked. If processing has not been completed the A.G.O. Travel Bureau will render the necessary assistance in completing same.

4. It is proposed to set up in the near future additional travel bureaus at key points in the United States. Upon organization the location of these additional bureaus will be published. Thereafter military personnel going overseas will contact the travel bureau nearest their point of departure from the United States.

(A.G. MO.31 (9-19-42).)

By Order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

J. A. ULIC,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

Submitted by: Bob Thompson

ITEM COMMENTS

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are welcomed and appreciated. Here are some nice comments from some nice folks.

THANK
YOU!

Thank you for keeping us on your email and ITEM mailing list. ~ **John Allen Albree**, LTC, USA (Ret)
(Aide to GEN John K Waters)

Thank you again for your labors of love for all our military loved ones!! ~ **Barbara Bickers**

I want to compliment you folks who are producing the Oflag ITEM. It's apparent that it took much planning on your part to come up with such a wonderful format. You seemed to have covered all bases. Thank you for all your efforts. ~ **Lester Edsall**

I just received my 2007 Summer Post Oflag 64 ITEM. Thanks for taking on the responsibility of editor. You are off to a great start. ~ **George Juskalian**

You are doing such wonderful work! Thank you for all you are doing! ~ **Regina Oldfield Puzzo**

Thanks for the wonderful issue of the ITEM. We look forward to the next reunion in Tulsa. We've made such wonderful friends at these reunions. Thanks again. ~ **Arlene and George Rosenthal**

I enjoyed the printed ITEM. ~ **Pat Waters**

Thanks so much for all your work on keeping the ITEM going. I look forward to receiving it even though I don't know a lot of the men. I keep reading hoping someone who knew my dad (Bill Whorley) might mention him. ~ **Judy Whorley Winkle**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

I really enjoyed looking through the website and discovering more about what my uncle [William "Bill" Leach] went through as a POW. Thank you. ~ **Jamie Gilliland**

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts with the Oflag 64 website and "The Item." My younger brother and I just discovered last year, in connection with the reunion held in New Orleans, where we live, that our father had been a POW in Oflag 64. I had done research many years ago, but had not been able to find anything on where he had been held as a POW. Sadly, our father died of cancer in 1965, at age 44, when I was 11, the oldest of his five children. We knew he had been a POW, but he did not talk much about his experiences with us, or our mother. ~ **Paul J. Thriffley III**



New visitors to our website

Lloyd LeClair – Oflag 64 Kriegy

Darryl Livingston – Son of Fred Livingston

Lindsay Marshall – Niece of Robert "Cheerful Charlie" Cheatham

George Myron – Oflag 64 Kriegy

Mary Ann Throgmorton

Jamie Wiedhahn – Military Tours Group

Nancy Thompson Wyatt – Daughter of Bob Thompson

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications might be of interest to you. Many of them were written by our men. Your local library is a good place to check for availability. If you can't find what you're looking for there, check Amazon.com or write to the author or publisher.

1. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY
2. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA
3. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO.
4. **In the Presence of Mine Enemies** by Eugene L Daniel, Contact Rose Daniel at 5100 Sharon Road #603, Charlotte NC 28210-4720.
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005.
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY.
8. **Kriegsgefangenen** (Prisoner of War) by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL.
10. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H)
11. **Raid.** The story of the Task Force Baum raid on the Hammelburg POW Camp. Publisher: Dell Publishing Co. (A few copies are available at \$8 each through our organization. Please make checks payable to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund c/o Elodie Caldwell.)
12. **Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64** by Clarence Meltesen. Story of Liberation from Oflag 64. Publisher: Oflag 64 Press. San Francisco, CA (\$25.00)
13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95)
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY

15. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA
16. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York, NY (\$11.00)
17. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb)

Other Publications

These publications are available through the Oflag 64 organization. (Please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail it to Joe Seringer.)

Oflag 64 Audio CD	5.00
The Oflag 64 Directory	3.00
Original Roster-Oflag 64	10.00
The Men of Oflag 64	20.00
My Tour of Russia	5.00
Tribute to TF Baum	15.00
Hammelburg Roster	7.50
The Waters Story	19.50

WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Press Releases by Ted Roggen, 101 Westcott, Houston TX 77007 (\$10.95)

Vic Kanners Diary. Contact Dave Kanners, 5479 Sandy Lane, Columbiaville MI 48421, 810-793-2719 (NO CHARGE)

Americans Behind the Barbed Wire by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$22.00 and includes Shipping and Handling.)

Roads to Liberation by Clarence R. Meltesen will be available free of charge at the Tulsa Reunion. By mail, there will be a \$5 per copy shipping and handling fee. If you would like a book shipped to you, please contact:

Lynne Meltesen
12163 West Exposition Drive
Lakewood CO 80228-3300
Phone: 303-987-1833/Email: meltelee@q.com

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Longview WA 98632-4437



Robert Lindsay Cheatham, Jr.



ASHEBORO — Robert Lindsay Cheatham Jr., 86, formerly of McDowell Road, Asheboro NC, died Wednesday, July 18, 2007, at Randolph Health & Rehabilitation, Asheboro.

Funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 20, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church Asheboro, NC, with the Rev. Russ Ward and the Rev. Connie Weaver officiating. Burial will follow at Oaklawn Cemetery, Asheboro, with military honors provided by the Randolph County Honor Guard.

A native of Abbeville, S.C., Mr. Cheatham graduated from Clemson A&M College in 1942. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II where he was a Prisoner of War for over 2 years, and earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He served as a volunteer at the VA Hospital in Salisbury and was a member of the Golden “K” (Kiwanis) where he was instrumental in starting the Head Start program. He was a founding member of the Randolph County Honor Guard and was the commander of the Randolph County Veterans Council, which helped create the Veterans Monument on Worth Street. He was also a member of the American Legion and worked with the Boys State program. He had worked for Celanese, Uniroyal and later Rampon. Mr. Cheatham was preceded in death by his wife, Velma Frances Cheatham.



He is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family will receive friends at Ridge Funeral Home, 908 Albemarle Road, Asheboro NC, from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, July 19, 2007.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 420 W. Walker Ave., Asheboro, NC 27203 or to a charity or organization of the donor’s choice.

Reid Flamm Ellsworth

1915 ~ 2007



Reid Flamm Ellsworth, 91, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend died peacefully at home on Wednesday, July 4,

2007 in Farmington, Utah. Reid was born in Rexburg, Idaho on November 13, 1915 to Claude William Ellsworth and Matilda Ann Flamm Ellsworth. He was the third child of ten.

After graduating from high school, he attended Idaho State University. He later served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During World War II, he served his country as a B-17 navigator in the Army Air Corps. While a navigator, he was shot down over Italy, which earned him the Purple Heart Medal. He was subsequently captured by the Germans and interned as a POW at Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland. He remained in the Air Force Reserves for 20 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.



Following the war, he met and later married Lela Young in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. They relocated to Tucson, AZ where he entered law school and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona. Soon thereafter they moved to Phoenix where he set up his law practice.

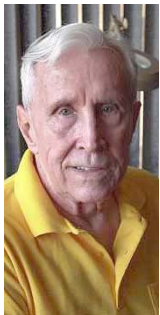
In later years, he and Lela served a two-year LDS mission in Italy. He always loved and enjoyed serving others. He was an active advocate for mentally retarded citizens for nearly 50 years. Reid loved his family, his church and his country.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Lela and seven siblings. Survivors include five daughters: Elodie (Bill) Caldwell of Longview, Washington; Janet Ellsworth of Farmington, Utah; Barbara (Barry) Richins of Holbrook, Arizona; Diane (Henry) Hill of Provo, Utah; Cecily (Chris) Weatherford of Plano, Texas; his son Gordon Ellsworth of Randolph, Arizona; a brother Glenn Ellsworth of Las Vegas, Nevada; a sister Mabelle Falter of Idaho Falls, Idaho; and numerous grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Monday, July 9, at 11 a.m. at the Davis Creek 3rd Ward Building, 825 South 50 East, Farmington, Utah. Viewings will be held Sun., July 8, from 6-8 p.m. at Evans and Early Mortuary, 574 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah, and on Monday, July 9 from 10-11 a.m. for close friends and family at the Davis Creek 3rd Ward Building.

(Reid was interred next to his wife, Lela, in Sandy UT, with military honors provided by airmen from Hill AFB.)

Robert M. Keith



Keith, Robert M. 87, of St. Petersburg, FL and formerly of St. Louis, died Tues., July 17th, 2006 at Bay Pines, FL VA Health Care System.

He was born in St. Louis and moved to St. Petersburg in 1981 from Denver, CO where he was an electrical engineer for Martin Marietta. He was a life member of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc) and a member of Masonic Lodge #348 in San Bernadino, CA. He

was a WW II Army veteran and was of the Protestant faith.



He is survived by a granddaughter, Debbie Gentry of Melbourne, FL; 2 great-grandchildren, Kristi Wood and W. Ryan Gentry; and a great-great-grandson, Jeremy Wood. Anderson-McQueen Funeral & Cremation Centers, St. Petersburg, FL.

Published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/21/06- 7/27/2006.

NOTE: Although the picture is of our Robert M. Keith, it has been difficult to determine with complete accuracy that this obituary is of the Robert M. Keith who was interned at Oflag 64 during WWII. We have contacted Mr. Q. Brian Sickels, who together with Mr. Keith designed the web page where the black and white photos of the Oflag 64 compound (taken on January 23, 1945) are displayed, and he has stated that this is the same man.

If you have other information to confirm the accuracy or inaccuracy of the person reported here as being the same Robert M. Keith from Oflag 64, please let Elodie Caldwell know. If this information is in error, apologies are extended to him, his family and friends. It will be corrected in the next ITEM.

The Oflag 64 Family extends sincere sympathies and condolences to O. L. "Brad" Bradford at the recent and sudden loss of his son. We know he will be missed.



Tributes to Robert Cheatham and Reid Ellsworth follow.

Tuesday 24 July 2007

Dear Connie and Russ:

This is a note of appreciation as a tribute to the dignified and thoughtful memories served on last Friday. At the place where Robert Cheatham joined the place where his wife resides.

A few deep impressions I can gladly share with you. Such as the prelude music so beautifully done by Dwen Hall. And the solo of "the Eagles" by Vivian Byrd. Which is second time I have heard used in such an appropriate place. It brought to home a short note I share with you. In early 1942 at Fort Bragg we found a Bald Eagle to become our mascot. He lived on to after our return under new leadership in the 82d Airborne Division.

The Honorary Pall bearers and the Honorary American Legion Honor Guard were so dignified and respectful and at least one, came to altar and removed his cap and stood bear by and in a few seconds backed off and gave Robert a sharp salute in memory.

What a joy when Marian Neilson entered and found and sat with me throughout the ceremony. I felt so honored and recalled the many times she came to Robert's home over the years to help him get his life back together,

The one person so very helpful from Ridge was Andy Huffine, gave me some instructions on Friday morning on the phone, and who found me a parking place near the family and the funeral cars.

All my heart goes out to you and great farewell that you made possible. Our many deep thanks. To not only you but to all remaining family members.

Very sincerely

Louise - Herb
Louise and Herbert Garris

PS: These thoughts will be sent to Bob Thompson who heads the Oflag 64 Item in Tulsa, Ok. A copy will be sent to accordingly.

Enclosed is an item to acquaint of call to duty Bob and I performed.

many thanks
by

Submitted by: Herb Garris

On Eagles' Wings

By Michael Joncas

And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you,
hold you in the palm
of his hand.

God Grant Me...

By Reinhold Niebuhr

Serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can; and
Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.

Taking, as He did,
This sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His will.
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy
With Him forever in the next.

*Printed on
Robert Cheatham's funeral program*

Stout-hearted Men

by Nelson Eddy

(This adaptation is by Barbra Streisand.)

You have dreams, if you act
They will come true
Would you turn your dreams to a fact
It's up to you
If you have the soul and the spirit
Never fear it you'll see it through
Hearts can inspire other hearts with their fire
For the strong obey
When a strongman shows them the way
Give me some mean
Who are stout-hearted men
Who will fight for the right they adore
Start me with ten
Who are stout-hearted men
And I'll soon give you ten thousand more
Shoulder to shoulder
And bolder and bolder
They grow as they go to the fore
Then there's nothing in the world
Can stall or halt the plan
When stout-hearted men
Can stick together man to man
When stout-hearted men
Can stick together man to man...

*A favorite of his, this was printed on
Reid Ellsworth's funeral program.*

A Tribute to the Life of Reid Flamm Ellsworth

By his own words, Reid Ellsworth's "birth certificate expired" Wednesday, July 4, 2007. Because he couldn't find any way to renew it, he had to turn it in. What follows is a collection of highlights from his life from the date of issuance to the expiration of that birth certificate.

Born in Rexburg, Idaho on November 13, 1915, Reid was the third of ten children. At age three, he was the only one of his family, during the flu epidemic of 1918, well enough to take water to those who needed it. When he was five, his family moved to Montana hoping to find better working conditions. The move was made in a covered wagon while his mother was 6-7 months pregnant and also while Reid had tuberculosis but at the time didn't yet know it. After a short, unsuccessful attempt at dry farming, the family returned to Rexburg. Reid noticed an interesting contrast as his family traveled in the covered wagon pulled by four horses. He became aware of a young woman in the area who owned and could fly an airplane.

He was a good student and made friends easily. It was his desire to have fun and be happy. He wanted

everyone to experience the same fun, so he and his peer group made a point of including everyone in all their activities, even drawing out the wall flowers at dances. Reid loved to dance and enjoyed teaching his young daughters to dance by lovingly dancing them on his feet. Before his mission, he participated in church-wide dance exhibitions. He danced throughout his life including his last week in the hospital.

Reid served a Spanish-American mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, entering the mission field with only one hour of language training, which meant that he had to learn Spanish on his own as he served in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Work was always important to him and he knew if he studied hard, listened well and practiced, he would learn the Spanish language.

As everyone here is aware, he was a POW during World War II. His experiences were life defining and he loved to tell about them. Although he wouldn't have wanted to repeat those experiences, he felt he was a better man because of them. He was a true patriot, dearly loved his country, and was truly a member, as Tom Brokaw said, of the greatest generation.

Reid was spiritually in tune and had significant experiences of a miraculous nature not only during World War II, but throughout his life. He had experiences of divine interposition that taught him, protected him, and warned him in perilous times as well as providing him peace in times of need. He believed strongly in the Comforter.

Physical fitness and good health were of great importance to Reid during his life. As a middle-aged man, he would have sit-up contests with teen-aged boys and would usually win. He coached his daughters in sports in school, teaching them coordination and good sportsmanship. When he was eighty, he did a commemorative sky dive in honor of his war-time friends and experiences. When he was eighty-two, he participated in the Senior Olympics, medaling in two states. Up to the end of his life, exercising was important even if only walking to get the mail or to visit the neighbors.

He was educated as a lawyer and practiced law for many years. In his heart of hearts, he would like to have been a math teacher. Learning was a passion and he was still looking up the meanings of Italian words two days before his death.

He and his wife, Lela, were married for fifty-four years and raised five daughters and one son. Reid was an advocate for mentally retarded citizens because his only son was born profoundly mentally retarded. In a time when the existence of handicaps was publicly unacknowledged, he and his wife never shied away from including their son in all activities.

Reid and Lela served an LDS a mission in Italy when Reid was 71. The possibility of reconnecting with people he had met during World War II was exciting to him, although some had previously died due to age. But before returning to the states when he was 73, he was able to make the connection he so desired. Reid learned to love and appreciate the people and cultures from both missions and maintained contact with as many of them as possible all his life. At the time of his death, there were letters written in Italian waiting to be sent to families he developed close relationships with while serving in Italy.

Staying out of debt and being prepared were of great importance to Reid, and he taught these things to his family by his example. He believed so strongly in being prepared that he planned his funeral program in advance even choosing musical numbers and making speaking assignments. Now that's prepared!

Reid lived for his family and loved them very much. And they loved him. He was always a good example, a good teacher, a good man, a good and faithful servant, and he lived his life well. We will miss him greatly. ~ **The Ellsworth Children**