

Post **Oflag 64** Item

Summer 2008

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2008 Oflag 64 Reunion Washington D.C. October 9-13

Great things are in store for us all at the Oflag 64 Reunion to be held in Washington D.C. this October. Pat Bender and her family have worked tirelessly to put things together (along with AFR) to provide a great experience for everyone. We applaud their efforts.

On the next 5 pages you will find a reunion information letter from Pat, a registration form, an itinerary, a tour description page, and a hotel reservation form. Please pay attention to deadline dates, methods of payment, cancellation policies, and information relating to special accommodation needs.

We're looking forward to seeing as many Kriegies and their families as possible this year. As with our previous reunions, this will be a reunion you won't want to miss.

Oflag 64 Website

We are presently having difficulty updating our Oflag 64 website and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. You can still access information currently on the site, but until updating is possible, we'll be posting our ITEMS to my Comcast website once published. Those who receive the ITEM by US Mail will continue to receive it that way. Those who receive notifications by email will be sent the web address for accessing the current ITEM online.

We appreciate your patience and will keep you posted regarding Oflag website accessibility.

Best Regards,

Elodie Caldwell (daughter of Reid Ellsworth)



A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

Dear Oflag 64 Family:

We are finalizing plans for the Oflag 64 reunion in Washington, D.C. from October 9-13, 2008. Hotel rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn, Crystal City, Virginia for \$89 per night plus tax. Please make your reservations as soon as possible so that Armed Forces Reunions can set aside additional rooms if needed. Information about the hotel is included below.

The reunion begins on Thursday, October 9. Thursday will be a free day for arrivals and registration. The hospitality room will be open throughout the reunion. Thursday's dinner is on your own. Tickets for the breakfast buffet in the hotel's 50s style restaurant will be provided for both Friday and Monday mornings. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, the full breakfast buffet is available for \$10.99.

The Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday from 9-11 am and we are hoping that the White House visit comes through for Friday afternoon. If you are a Kriegy who plans to visit the White House and have not yet sent your full name, date of birth & social security number to me, please do so as soon as possible (Kriegies only). My contact information is included below. **If you wait to do this until you arrive in Washington, it will be too late.** White House volunteers will help with wheel chairs, but **wheel chairs are not provided by the White House.** Friday's lunch and dinner are on your own.

On Saturday, we will have breakfast on our own, (available for \$10.99 in the hotel), then board buses for the city of Washington tour. We will stop for lunch downtown and also at the World War II Memorial. Dinner is on your own. Tour descriptions are included below.

On Sunday, the breakfast buffet is again available in the hotel restaurant for \$10.99. There will be an optional tour of Arlington National Cemetery after a stop at a food court for lunch. Sunday's banquet will be at the Holiday Inn beginning with a cash bar at 6pm.

Monday's buffet breakfast (tickets provided) will be in the hotel's restaurant from 7am to 8:30. The Memorial Service begins at 8:30 am.

There will be opportunities for those who wish to visit Washington's tourist sites on their own. The closest metro stop to the hotel is "Crystal City" on the blue line. If you wish to visit Arlington National Cemetery on your own, the metro stop is "Arlington National Cemetery" also on the blue line. The 23rd Street "Restaurant Row in Crystal City is a short walk (crossing a very busy street), cab ride, or shuttle ride from the hotel.

Crystal City is across the Potomac River from the District, and most museums, monuments, and federal buildings are only a few minutes away. Parking in Washington is next to impossible, so plan to take metro or a cab. The Smithsonian metro stop is only a 13-minute ride from the Crystal City metro stop on the blue line. The elderly and disabled travel for half price.

My family and I are looking forward to a great reunion in Washington. If I can answer any questions, please feel free to contact me. (e-mail is best).

Warmest Regards,

Pat DiFrancesco Bender
7039 McCallum Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119
215-242-5504
awol06@comcast.net



OFLAG 64 ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.armedforcesreunions.com/offlag. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 8, 2008. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. All new registrations accepted at the reunion will be charged a \$10 onsite processing fee. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
PO Box 11327
Norfolk, VA 23517
ATTN: OFLAG 64

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Names Completed _____

	Price Per	# of People	Total
CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/8/08			
REGISTRATION PACKAGE \$150			
Includes breakfast on Friday & Monday, the City Tour on Saturday, the Sunday evening banquet, and reunion expenses.			
<i>Please select your entrée choice(s) for the banquet:</i>			
LONDON BROIL	\$150		\$
CHICKEN MARSALA	\$150		\$
BAKED TILAPIA	\$150		
OPTIONAL TOURS			
FRIDAY: WHITE HOUSE TOUR (FOR OFLAG 64 POWs ONLY)			\$
SUNDAY: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY TOUR	\$36		\$
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST _____ LAST _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE NAME FOR NAMETAG (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

POW's STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES NO ARE YOU FLYING? DRIVING? RV?

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.



OFLAG 64
OCTOBER 9 – 13, 2008
HOLIDAY INN NATIONAL AIRPORT – ARLINGTON, VA (WASHINGTON DC AREA)

Thursday, October 9

2:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
3:00pm - Hospitality Room open throughout the reunion
Evening and Dinner on your own

Friday, October 10

7:00am - 9:00am Breakfast Buffet in the hotel restaurant (tickets provided)
9:00am - 11:00am Business Meeting
WHITE HOUSE TOUR (description follows)
Evening and Dinner on your own

Saturday, October 11

10:00am - 3:00pm CITY TOUR (description follows)
Evening and Dinner on your own

Sunday, October 12

12:15pm - 4:15pm ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (description follows)
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception and Social Hour
7:00pm Banquet begins

Monday, October 13

7:00am - 8:30am Breakfast Buffet in the hotel restaurant (tickets provided)
8:30am - 9:30am Memorial Service
Farewells & Departures

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.



TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

WHITE HOUSE TOUR

Friday, October 10

This is still deep in the planning stages, but our hope is to embark on a special tour of the White House, focusing mainly on the West Wing. We're aiming for a Friday afternoon tour, but details will be determined after the cut-off date. **NOTE: This tour is only open to POWs.**

CITY TOUR

Saturday, October 11

See the sites of our nation's capital during a driving tour of Washington, D.C. Ride by the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, WWII Memorial, the Mall, Capitol Building, Washington Monument, White House, and other notable monuments and federal buildings. Free time will be allowed at the National World War II Memorial, the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II. Afterward, stop at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, which is the largest building (3.1 million square feet) in Washington, DC and is the first and only federal building dedicated to both government and private use. While there, enjoy lunch on your own at the Reagan Building food court - named one of the "best family food courts" in DC.

10:00am board bus, 3:00pm back at the hotel

Price for bus and guide is included in the reunion package. Lunch is on your own.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Sunday, October 12

Before heading to Arlington National Cemetery, we'll stop for a quick bite to eat at the Pentagon City Food Court. The tour of the Cemetery will be aboard Park Service Trams. Ride by Arlington House, home of General and Mrs. Robert E. Lee. The 1,000 acres of the cemetery were once part of the Lee Estate. Visit the Tomb of the Unknowns where you will see the changing of the guard, and then visit the gravesites of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert, lit by the eternal flame.

12:15pm board bus, 4:15pm back at the hotel

\$36/Person includes bus, escort, and tram. Lunch on your own.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to scheduled time.

All trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

Register online at www.armedforcesreunions.com/oflag

(A \$6 convenience fee will be added)



**HOLIDAY INN NATIONAL AIRPORT/CRYSTAL CITY – ARLINGTON, VA
703-684-7200**

The Holiday Inn National Airport, a full service hotel is located at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. The hotel is just one half mile from Ronald Reagan National Airport. Please call the hotel for accurate driving instructions. The monuments, museums and galleries of Washington, DC are just moments away by metro or automobile. Each guest room features a coffee maker, hairdryer and iron/ironing board. For recreation activities, the hotel has an outdoor (seasonal) pool and an exercise gym. Hotel amenities include a gift shop, guest Laundromat, a free newspaper, and a newsstand. The hotel offers handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms, which are based on availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your reservation. Parking will be complimentary with unlimited in and out privileges for reunion attendees. Check-in time is 4:00pm; check-out time is 12:00 noon. **The National Diner** features breakfast all day and a great selection of American fare from around the country. **O'Malley's Sports Pub & Grill** is the perfect place for happy hour, dinner or a light snack. Room service is available.

The hotel provides complimentary transportation to and from the Reagan National Airport, the Metro, the Pentagon and the Fashion Centre Mall. Upon arrival at the Reagan National Airport, call the hotel from the courtesy phone in the baggage claim area to arrange your pickup.

Due to limited space the hotel does not offer parking for RVs, but for full RV hookup service, the Pohick Bay Park on the Potomac River is the closest park to the hotel, which is approximately twenty miles away, located at 6501 Pohick Bay Drive in Lorton, VA. Call (703) 339-6104 for information, reservations, and directions. Their web address is www.nvrpa.org.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheel chairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details. All prices quoted include delivery fees.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

*****CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL *****

**OFLAG 64 REUNION - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: OCTOBER 9-13, 2008**

NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____ - _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

of rooms _____ # of people _____ Handicap Access _____ King Bed _____ 2 Double Beds _____
(If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned)

RATE: \$89 + tax (currently 12.25%) for Double or King.

CUT OFF DATE: 9/08/08. Reservations received after this date will be processed on space & rate availability.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled by 48 hours prior to your arrival day.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

___ AMEX ___ DINERS ___ VISA ___ MASTERCARD ___ DISCOVER

CARD NUMBER _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (regardless of payment method) _____

Mail to: Holiday Inn National Airport * 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway * Arlington, VA 22202 Attn: Reservations





MAIL CALL



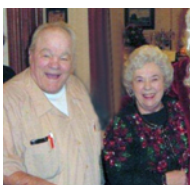
ERNEST (SNAP) ANKROM from Circleville OH, in a phone conversation recently, spoke of some of his experiences surrounding his capture and the long, cold march. He hasn't had contact with the Oflag 64 organization for quite some time but would like to begin receiving the ITEM. He would also like to send a donation to the Postage Fund and to receive Clarence Meltesen's ROADS TO LIBERATION book. Due to continuing health concerns, "Snap" doesn't think he'll be able to attend the Reunion in D.C. *Thanks, Snap, for sharing your experiences. We would love to see you at the Reunion but understand that health circumstances sometimes don't permit. Thanks so much for your donation to the Postage Fund. It is very much appreciated. We hope you enjoy the book. Please contact us anytime.*

TY ANKROM from Circleville OH (nephew of Ernest "Snap" Ankrom) recently found our website and has been corresponding with us. In his most recent email, he wrote: "My uncle is still living. Uncle Snap (Ernest Dewey Ankrom) is 87 years old and in fairly good health. He has experienced pneumonia a couple of times in the past year, but always fights back! In fact, he was released from the hospital only last week after contracting pneumonia again....Uncle Snap made a presentation to my Rotary club. Following his talk, the Rotarians (about a 100) rose simultaneously applauding his courage and willingness to share his experience. I am extremely proud to be his nephew. *Thanks, Ty, for writing and sharing information about your uncle. We love hearing heartwarming experiences such as the Rotary Club experience you shared. We'd love to see you at our Washington D.C. reunion in October. Please keep in touch.*



ABE AND EILEEN BAUM from San Diego CA emailed a short note recently expressing plans to attend the reunion in Washington D.C. but also with the realization that it's hard at "this age" to project so far in advance. Abe has also had more requests for his book and has sent signed copies for those interested in buying one. *Thanks very much, Abe and Eileen, for your nice email. It was good to hear from you again. And thanks, Abe, for sending the books. We appreciate it very much. Hope to see you in Washington D.C.*

O. L. (BRAD) BRADFORD from Grove City OH sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a note stating that to the best of his knowledge, Jerome Hatch has died. He wrote: "We were 'close' in room 2 of the 'White House' at 64. He also noted the passing of Bill Fabian, another of the not-to-be-forgotten members of the Room 2 crew of the White House of 64 (See TAPS Section). Brad plans to attend the Reunion in Washington D.C. *Thanks, Brad, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. And thank you for the information on our former Kriegies. We're always sorry to hear of the passing of such great men. Looking forward, however, to seeing you again in Washington D.C. We enjoy hearing from you; please write again soon.*



ROY AND HELEN CHAPPELL from Kaufman TX wrote with information that Lewis W. Lowe passed away on April 19. He and his wife, Janet, were an active part of the Oflag 64 Family over the years. We mourn Lew's passing and extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to his family. We know he will be missed. (See the TAPS section for Lew's obituary.) *Thanks, Chappells for sending this information on to us. We appreciate your love and concern for members of the Oflag 64 Family. We wish you the best and hope you'll keep in touch.*

BILL CORY from Naples FL sent a generous donation to the Postage Fund along with helpful and interesting comments relating to the Spring 08 ITEM. Bill also stated he was: "laid up in the hospital and rehab for the Winter....I'm between walker and cane after a hard Winter in Naples FL. I'll try to get to D.C. for October, but am hesitant to commit this far in advance." *Bill, we're so sorry to hear that you've had a difficult Winter, but hope your recovery will go smoothly and that you'll be able to join us in D.C. We appreciate the information and updates you shared on the Spring 08 ITEM. We also greatly appreciate your very generous and thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund.*



NILS COWAN from Arlington VA (television producer in Washington, DC) recently discovered our website and asked to be added to our mailing list. He is currently in development for a one-hour film about the recently declassified US escape and evasion program known as MIS-X, stationed at Fort Hunt, VA. He wrote: "One of the

most fascinating stories we've heard about the MIS-X program is that they sent live firearms as well as many other escape aids to Oflag 64 for an escape attempt that would include possibly shooting their way out and then being picked up by Air Force B-17s.... I'm wondering if it might be possible to not only see if any still living Oflag 64 Kriegies were part of this plan, but also to see who would be willing and able to be interviewed about life in the camp and their personal experiences for the film. Obviously we would travel to them to do the interview.... I am just getting into this whole story and am truly fascinated by all of this." If you know anything of this project, please contact Mr. Cowan at the following addresses or phone numbers:

Nils R. Cowan, Producer
Henninger Productions
2601-A Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201
direct: (703) 908-4175
fax: (703) 243-5697
mobile: (703) 980-5854
email: ncowan@henninger.com
www.henninger.com



We have received subsequent emails from Nils. Please see his latest email in the "Information Station" section of this ITEM entitled **Oflag 64 Documentary Follow-up**. *Thanks, Nils, for writing. We have a great group of Kriegies and hopefully several of them will be able to attend the next reunion in Washington D.C. in October. For those who are not able to travel, we've provided your contact information above. We wish you success in your endeavor. We hope you'll keep us posted on the progress of your project.*

A. J. DESANTO from Wakefield RI/Munich Germany sent a letter along with a donation to the Postage Fund. He wrote: "Just received the latest ITEM and enjoyed it very much. Although I am not a member of the original OFLAG 64 group, I do feel that I have a close relationship with some of the group when several hundred of them arrived at Hammelburg where I was located at the time. In addition, I managed to attend several of the Reunions during which I became acquainted with several of the OFLAG 64 members." He also said: "We plan to attend the next Reunion in Washington D.C." **NOTE:** Since the first communication, Tony wrote that his wife recently fell and has injured her hip. She has had surgery and is in rehab. They would still like to attend the reunion if her recovery will allow travel. *Thanks so much, Anthony, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund and for your nice note. Both are greatly appreciated. We hope your wife's recovery goes well. She will be in our thoughts and prayers. Please keep us posted. Hoping to see you in D.C. if all goes well.*



"DOC" DIFRANCESCO from Silver Spring MD sent an obituary for Louanna Casner, wife of Al Casner, one of our Kriegies. He also sent some interesting information about Al who was known as "Al the Bicycle Thief" because he stole 3 bicycles on the March and he, his Colonel, and Major escaped. *Thanks, Doc, for sharing the obituary information for Louanna Casner (included in the TAPS section) and escape information on Al. We express our heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathies to the Casner family. We know Louanna will be missed.*

ALAN DUNBAR from Las Vegas NV wrote a while back and enclosed a donation to the Postage Fund. He stated: "I will make it my first priority to come to the Reunion. I will be 90 years old, God willing. It will be nice to see the members and their families. To keep up *The Item*, here is a donation to *The Item*. I celebrate my 90th birthday on May 7, 2008 having a party. My family and friends will be attending." *Thanks, Alan for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. We greatly appreciate all our contributors. Congratulations also on your 90th birthday. What a milestone! Looking forward to seeing you in Washington D.C. in October. Please let us hear from you again.*

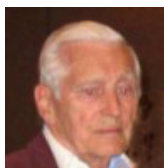


CAROLINE FENTON from Escondido CA (daughter of Otho R. Williams, Jr.) recently emailed her compliments on the ITEM as well as the following information: "Sadly, I will be unable to attend the reunion because my husband and I will be finishing up our vacation that week and weekend. Maybe consideration of a San Diego reunion might be in order!! We have great weather in the Fall!! I will be mailing you a postage donation in the near future. I appreciate all the efforts of this organization. I am still finding things at my parents' home... letters, etc. I can't believe the items were so scattered about the home and it has been a real treasure hunt, which is near an end. I think I will be able to really organize my materials starting the beginning of summer. So far, I have a 4" binder full of letters and docs, and two book bags full of unreviewed material!! Again, I am thrilled I have found you all..." And in another communication, Caroline sent a copy of a letter she found in her father's belongings written by Curtis Jones' father to her grandfather. (See the Information Station section for the letter.) *Thank you very much, Caroline, for your compliments on the ITEM and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. It would be great to have a future Reunion in San Diego. Would you consider hosting it? We hope your new project continues*

to bring you great joy. We are thrilled to have you in our organization as well. Keep us posted on your findings and how your project comes along.

BOB FLEEGE, a new member of our organization, recently discovered our website and is looking for Kriegy Robert Fleege or for any information that would help him discover more about his heritage. An email query was sent out and he had a great response. He wrote: "I am in awe at the unbelievable response your email has generated. Although there is much more to learn about Lt Robert Fleege, I have a much better picture of him today than I did 24 hours ago. It would have taken me months to figure out where to find the proper data and how to decipher it. I am simply overwhelmed with the response." If there are others who don't have email who might have information to share, please send information to Elodie Caldwell at the address on the front page of this ITEM to forward on to Mr. Fleege. *Thanks, Bob, for writing. We're happy you've found us. We have a wonderful group of Kriegies and families who are always more than willing to help. We wish you success in your search for information. Please keep in touch.*

ORETTA HAMBLIN from Lawton OK (widow of O. B. Hamblin) sent a nice letter not long ago and included a donation to the Postage Fund. She commented: "I enjoy the Oflag ITEM - My husband never talked about his prison days." In addition to receiving future ITEMS, she is also interested in receiving a copy of the Oflag 64 Directory and Original Oflag 64 Roster. *Thank you, Oretta, for your nice letter and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We appreciate it greatly. The requested directory and roster have been sent. We hope you find them useful. We're also always excited to hear from our Oflag 64 family members. We hope at 88 that you're doing well and will write again.*



JONEL HILL from Pasadena CA sent a very generous donation to the Postage Fund along with comments about the ITEM. He wrote: "Delighted to get the Spring 2008 Item." In a subsequent communication, he wrote that he and his wife will not be able to make it to the 2008 Reunion but hopes to attend in 2009." *Thanks, Jonel, for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. We so appreciate the contributions of our members. We will miss you and your wife in Washington D.C. but hope to see you both in 2009. Please write again.*

SARAH INGRAM from Opelika AL (daughter of Warren E. Walters) sent a check to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Sarah, for your thoughtful donation. We'd love to see you at the Reunion in Washington D.C. and hope you'll contact us again.*

CURTIS JONES from Vineyard Haven MA sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a nice letter which said: Thank you very much for giving Caroline Fenton my address. It seems that the Red Cross had given my father her grandfather's address in 1944 because her father had arrived in Oflag 64 and the Red Cross knew I was there since early 1943 so my father could tell them things weren't too bad. I really didn't tell the truth when I wrote home. She sent me a letter my father wrote to her grandfather and a picture of her father. She didn't say when he was captured. When I got to Oflag 64 there were about 220 there and when we left in January 1945 about 1500." *Thanks you, Curtis, for writing and for sharing your communications with us. We hope the communications continue. Thanks also for your generous and thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. It's tremendously appreciated. Looking forward to seeing you and Norma again at the Reunion in Washington D.C.*



MAUREEN LINKOVICH from Winstead CT (daughter of Patrick Quinn from the Hammelburg Raid) recently wrote and is hoping to attend the D.C. Reunion with her husband. Her father, Patrick, was fortunate enough to escape capture at the time of the Hammelburg Raid although it took him about two weeks to get back to Allied lines. *Maureen, thanks so much for writing. We're greatly looking forward to seeing you and your husband at the Reunion in D.C. Please keep in touch.*

JANET LOWE from Phoenix AZ (recent widow of Lewis W. Lowe) sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a note thanking our Oflag 64 family for the card sent at the time of Lew's passing (see the TAPS section for his obituary). She has also sent a copy of his funeral and memorial service program and remembrances written by his children. Janet wrote: "At the cemetery, there was a Color Guard, a three gun salute, and the playing of Taps. They folded the flag and presented it to me. We then all sang Amazing Grace." Janet and Lew had been married over 61 years. *Janet, thanks so much for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. It is greatly appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you. We can only imagine how much Lew will be missed. Best wishes to you and your family as you adjust to new routines and schedules. Please write again and let us know how you are doing.*

LUCY LUSSENDEN from Livonia MI (widow of Don Lussenden) wrote recently with news of her daughter. She stated: "I just re-read your closing remarks concerning my family and thought I would write again. My daughter, Debra, (I don't know whether you have met her or not--her last reunion was in Pittsburgh), has had a recurrence again of Leukemia. This is so difficult for her and all of us. This is the third recurrence. She has a very unusual something in her DNA/blood, whatever, and cannot find a suitable donor. Her oncologist said that he doesn't think she will ever be able to find a donor. She will have a bone marrow biopsy this coming Wednesday morning. The doctor will decide the course of treatment after that. She is so young, has an adoring husband and 18-year-old daughter. They are a very close family and Deb is my only birth child. It would make me very comforted if you would keep her in your prayers. Thanks so much." Lucy also has been sending Kriegy obituary updates as she receives them from the Ex-POW Bulletins.



Lucy, we know this is a difficult time for you and your family. We'll most certainly be happy to keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. We also want to express our thanks to you for keeping us updated on Ex-POW Bulletin news, specifically the obituaries. What a wonderful service you're rendering!

SUSAN CALPIN NALLEY from Potomac MD (daughter of Michael J. Calpin) emailed not long ago: "While visiting my dad, Michael J. Calpin, I read the *Item* he had received with the reunion information. I am happy he is planning to attend. I am wondering if you needed any help with the event. I will be helping my dad get around during the event and I can multi-task! Please let me know how I can help....Can I also become a subscriber to the ITEM?" *Susan, thank you for emailing and for offering help at the Reunion. We have such wonderful supportive families. Your name has been added to our email list and you will be receiving future notifications of ITEM publications. Looking forward to seeing you and your dad in D.C. We hope to hear from you again.*

JAMIE NIMMO from Seneca SC (daughter of James G. Evans) was searching through the internet not long ago and found our website. She wrote: "Due to the recent death of my mother (Virginia Williams Evans) I have come across some of my father's things and found the small New Testament he obviously had while at Oflag 64. Since that gave me the name of the camp (having 3 daughters we never asked many questions and daddy rarely spoke of the war) where he was imprisoned, I found your website. What remarkable information and the *Oflag 64 Item* is unbelievable." *Thanks, Jamie, for writing and for sending updates on your late father. We are happy that you have found our website and thank you for your compliments. But we're saddened by the loss of your mother, We express our condolences to you and your family. We know she will be missed. We hope you'll keep in touch.*

SUZY PARKER from McLean VA (daughter of Chaplain Robert Scott) wrote to say that she plans to attend the Washington D.C. Reunion this year. She lives near the hotel and is looking forward to receiving a schedule of events. She also sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thank you, Suzy, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We receive so much support from Kriegies and their families. It is always very much appreciated. We're happy also to hear that you're planning to attend the Reunion this year. Please write again.*

ROBERT RIVERS from Orcutt CA sent a donation to the Postage Fund a while back. You will remember the last ITEM which included the newspaper article on Bob. *Thank you so much, Bob, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. You and other members of our Oflag 64 organization are very supportive. We appreciate each and every contribution. (Photo by Ian Gonzaga, Santa Maria Times)*



WILBUR AND MARY SHARPE from Bethesda MD forwarded a note from Judy Casner Fletcher, daughter of Al Casner, one of our Kriegies. She spoke of her mother's recent death and said: "My mother passed away on January 29 peacefully with me at her side. Louanna will be buried at Arlington Cemetery on March 5.....Please pass on this information to other Oflag 64 guys who might have known Al. My Dad is doing well at Potomac Place and is planning to attend the funeral." *Thanks Wilbur and Mary for passing on this information (Obituary included in the TAPS section). We know this is a difficult time for the Casner family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. Would love to see you at the Reunion in October. We hope you are doing well and will keep in touch.*

JIM SUDMEIER from Natick MA (Screenwriter, XIIIB Raid) sent word that Norman Hoffner, Sr. passed away. Norman was part of Abe Baum's task force and served as the recon platoon leader. Mr. Sudmeier wrote: "There will be a wake for Norm Hoffner on Monday, Mar. 10. Norm lived alone for the past 9 years in Edison, NJ. His son and grandson, Johnathan lived a few minutes away in Milltown, N.J. I particularly enjoyed Norm's self-effacing, modest nature and his droll sense of humor. For a recon guy who was always out in front probing the German lines in his jeep, Norm never felt the incredible and probably sometimes nightmarish risks he took were anything out of the ordinary. He was fond of his nickname on radio communications "Knucklehead". Norm Hoffner was 90 years old. He will be missed. *Thanks, Jim, for sharing this information (included in the TAPS section). We are saddened by the loss of another great man and express our regrets to the Hoffner family.*

BOB THOMPSON from Tulsa OK emailed recently that he was sending some things for safe keeping. He also wrote: "I was sick about 3 weeks ago and spent a week in the hospital and have been woozy ever since. I didn't drive a car for awhile and I do have my confidence up to do that again. I had a couple of letters from Pat Bender asking about the reunion this fall. As of now, I don't think we will be there. It is difficult for me to walk and my vision was affected." *Oh my goodness, Bob. We're so sorry to hear about your health challenges. We certainly pray that your health will improve soon and that you'll be feeling tip top right away. We'll still hope to see you at the Reunion but will miss you should you, Gladys, and your family not be able to attend. You know, it won't be the same without you. Our best to you all!!*



LILON THOMPSON from Dallas TX sent word that her husband, Morris E. Thompson passed away December 5, 2002. She will not be able to attend the reunion in Washington D.C. this year but would like to continue receiving the ITEM. *Thanks, Lilon, for writing. We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband. Even at this late date, we express our sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences to you. We hope you'll write again.*

PAT WATERS from Mt. Pleasant NC (son of John K. Waters) sent a note to Joe Seringer along with a very generous Postage Fund donation. He wrote: "I have been honored to be on the Medal of Honor Foundation Board. It is very exciting and exhausting – but these are men who truly respect the men of Oflag 64. God Bless them all." *Thank you so much, Pat, for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. And thanks for your note. Please tell the men on the Medal of Honor Foundation Board that we truly appreciate their support. We hope to hear from you again soon.*



WILLIAM (BILL) WARTHEN from Vidalia GA sent a nice email with compliments on the ITEM. He also shared the following information: "From about October 44 to January 45 the inflow of new Kriegies was terrific, and learning to know well, and absorb details of names, where we were from, etc. was 'harem scarem'. I didn't, nor do I recall ever being aware of anyone taking down names and addresses, etc. Then we all marched out into the



extreme weather where we were all wrapped up with everything we could find, with little exposed except our eyes. You did not absorb the backgrounds of each other. Then there were probably 300 who managed to escape the first few days, then another large number were moved at two different times by box cars to Lukenwalde, and other smaller groups followed that I was not aware of until recently. It took me many years to trace and establish contact with some of my closest comrades on the march. I learned of the ITEM and Reunions in early 1982. Then Dottie and I attended our first reunion, which was on Miami Beach, (an easy decision to make for us because Kathy lived in Coral Gables, and we wanted to see our little grandsons). There we met several other couples who were also 'first timers', and the Reunion veterans made us feel so welcome, and I was able to report our recent trip to Southern Germany, our visit to Hammelburg, the considerate German Officer Host who spent a good bit of time hearing of my experiences and sharing a sly visit to their small and secret German Infantry Museum that included their weapons, uniforms, motor cycles, pictures, maps and records, but not a single swastika. From there Dottie and I went on to Nurenburg, where we had been held after the RAID. After a week we took our SPRING march, with over 1000 Air-Corps Kriegies who had been held at Luft 3, Sagan, until the Russians came. We knew we were only months or weeks away from liberation. Our guards were young German Luftwaffe trainees who were very casual in their duties. It was Spring and on clear days we could see the Alps. Red Cross trucks started meeting our column, cellars were full of potatoes, hens were laying eggs, and the dairy barns were available. It was nothing like our 45 days in northern Poland and Germany." *Thanks, Bill, for your compliments on the ITEM. Thanks also for sharing more of your experiences. We enjoy hearing them and appreciate the sacrifices that each Kriegy made during that difficult time. Please write again.*

LILLIAN WRIGHT from Catonsville MD (widow of William E. Wright, Jr.) sent an email a while back stating: "Just received the "Item" and immediately sat down and read it through. Always enjoy the stories. Bill (1Lt William E Wright, Jr) never talked about the Oflag 64 days. I saw the reunion in one of the Military Magazines after he died in 1992 and that is how I got involved. Have several of the books and have read them all. Made lots of notes as I read the 50th Reunion Book. Picked it up to read the first time and it was the same date in January that they started the march to Hammelburg. Bill stayed in the Army and retired in 1966 as a LTC. We never ran into any of the POWs in our travels....I am sending a check to the Postage Fund. *Lillian, it was so nice to hear from you again and to learn a bit more about you and your husband. Thanks for your kind words about the ITEM and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We would love to see you at the next Reunion in Washington D.C. Please keep in touch.*

INFORMATION STATION

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DEPARTMENT

1535 Parrish Street
Philadelphia

March 7, 1945

Mr. O. R. Williams
Pleasants County Court House
St Marys, W. Virginia

Dear Mr. Williams:

Our last letter from Curtis was written on Christmas Day, and he seemed in high spirits. The Red Cross had given all the prisoners a parcel, containing among other things a can of Turkey and a Plum Pudding. A day or two before Christmas he had received a food parcel we sent in August and seven letters. He said that there was plenty to eat for everyone on Christmas Day. Curtis has been a prisoner for two years and was at Oflag 64 since October 1943.

We received a picture of him taken about a year ago, and he looked well and strong. This week we received a letter from First Lieut. Laurence B. Higgins - 600 S. 14th Street - Clarinda, Iowa, who was repatriated from Oflag 64 on January fifth and returned on the Gripsholm. He said that Curtis was in good health and high spirits. Oflag 64 was, without doubt, one of the best Prison Camps.

Since January 21st, when the boys were moved, we have heard nothing but both Mrs. Jones and I believe that Curtis will make the best of his lot, and we hope that all the boys will be liberated soon. Our two younger sons are with the Seventh Army in France. The Seventh liberated a large number of U. S. Prisoners on March fifth. If we hear any further news that we think will interest you, we will send it along.

FPJ/RTS

620 Strath Haven Ave.
Swarthmore, Penna.

Sincerely yours,

Tred P Jones

Will write Curtis about you son.

Submitted by Caroline Fenton (daughter of Otho R. Williams, Jr.)

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES NEEDED

We're looking for updated email addresses for the following people:

Herb Garris
Chris Heisler
Paul Marable

If you have changed your email address recently, please send an email updating your address to

Elodie at:

elodie@oflag64.org

CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED

Benedict Amato
Orville Barks
William H. Barnum II
Leonard Feldman
Joseph Friedman
Al R. Fratzke
Jerome R. Hatch (deceased?)
Hugh G. Hogan
Arthur E. Mallory
Julius G. Parker
Donald L. Rockwell
Gerald F. Searle
Herbert M. Siercks (deceased?)
Gordon K. Smith
Francis B. Stevens
Garland F. Vaughn, Sr.
Henry J. Weintraub
Anthony L. Vetrano, Jr.
John C. Wood

If you know where these men are, please send updates to Elodie Caldwell at the address, phone number or email address on the front page of this ITEM.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

From: jjglover01@sbcglobal.net
Subject: **A.B. Rodriguez**
Date: **March 27, 2008 1:40:41 PM**
To: elodie@oflag64.org

Hi-

After doing a bit of research, I learned that my grandfather, 1LT Adam Rodriguez was a "guest" at Oflag 64 during WWII. He died in 1950 during the Korean War. I was wondering if you had any information regarding him? I know my dad and the rest of the family didn't know much about his time there. I've been trying to do a little research about that end of the family.

Thanks-John Glover

From: bobfleege@gmail.com
Subject: **Re: Oflag 64 Welcome**
Date: **April 12, 2008 2:20:26 PM PDT**
To: elodie@oflag64.org

About every month I Google my last name in hopes of stumbling across information that may lead to a more complete understanding of our heritage.

As I was looking at one of the pages, Google came back with two words that jumped out at me "Fleege" and "POW". Obviously this intrigued me and I began my quest to learn as much as I could before going to bed and about 4 hours later it became obvious that there is a whole lot to learn. Being a Veteran myself I knew I had to learn as much as I could and exactly how I'm related to Oflag 64 Kriegie Robert Fleege, and when I learned that he escaped from Oflag 64 on March 27 1945 I felt a calling to find out what happened to him after he escaped. Did he survive? Does he have family? How am I related to him?

One of the sites I read last night indicated that 1st Lt Fleege was a member of the 9th Division so this morning I ordered the Army's WWII 9th Division insignia to wear on my American Legion Rider's vest.

I am also interested in obtaining a copy of Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey. It all came about unexpectedly and kind of fast but here I am anxious to learn what I can and maybe, just maybe be blessed with an opportunity for this Robert Fleege to meet 1st Lt Robert Fleege.

From: Robersabel@aol.com
Date: **May 10, 2008 10:32:24 AM PDT**
To: THO7448@aol.com
Cc: Robersabel@aol.com
Subject: **Oflag 64**

Mr. Thompson,

I noticed you are assisting editor in the Oflag 64 site. Last year I met a former POW held in Oflag 64. He contacted frostbite on the journey from the Battle if the Bulge to the camp.

I submitted a request for the Purple Heart for wounds incurred while in captivity. According to Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, and 3 May 1944 severe frostbite is included in the definition of a wound.

The initial recognition was not until Public Law 104-106, dated February 10, 1996 was approved for wounded POWs held prior to 25 April 1962.

Since former AAF personnel came under the jurisdiction of the AF in 1957, the Board for Correction of Military Records is approving requests for the Purple Heart to former POWs that contacted frostbite during forced marches early 1945.

However, the Army Board is denying requests to former ground troops that experienced identical wounds.

If interested, I can provide copies of letters from the Army, conclusions from the AF Board , Army Board, and a 5-page letter of legal opinion by a Colonel, USAFR, Retired, former JAG officer, currently a local civilian attorney.

There is no reason for this injustice to continue. Please take interest in the quest to see these former POWs receive what was earned so many years ago.

Regards,
Robert E. Johnson
Surprise, Arizona

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WWII VETERANS

From: president@honorflight.org
Subject: Honor Flight
Date: May 11, 2008 10:57:01 AM
To: awol06@comcast.net
Cc: elodie@oflag64.org

Ms. Bender,

I received your letter concerning your father's POW reunion in October 9-13. I hope it is a great success!

We are an organization whose mission is to get all WWII veterans to Washington DC to see THEIR memorial.

We do not arrange reunion trips or extended stays in the DC areas.

We have also been advised by the National Park Service to avoid holiday periods due to the traffic issues. We will not be taking veterans to DC during that weekend.

I would encourage all of the veterans in your father's group to submit an application to us so we can take them to see THEIR memorial. They (or you) can do so by going to our web site, below, and downloading the veteran application, completing it and mailing it to the address shown. The application can be copied as much as you wish, so that all may send it in. If they all wish to go at the same time, have each one note the application to include the names of all.

Thank you for caring about these humble heroes.

James A. McLaughlin,
President
Honor Flight Network TM
1903 Waterbrook Lane
Columbus, Ohio 43209
Home (614) 237-3086
Cell (614) 558-6220
www.honorflight.org

**The HONOR FLIGHT Veteran Application
is included on the next two pages.**

APOLOGIES

We appreciate all who attended the Oflag 64 Tulsa Reunion and recognize them as a whole for their continued support of the Oflag 64 Organization. Apologies are extended to each attendee for our failure to have listed them in subsequent ITEMS.

Oflag 64 Documentary Follow-up **From Nils Cowan**

(continued from the "Mail Call" section)

Dear Oflag 64 Veterans, Families, and Friends,

Thank you so much for your responses to our original inquiry a few weeks back. We highly appreciate the information and enthusiasm everyone has shown, and we really apologize for the excessive delay in responding to many of you.

We are now 100% "greenlit" by National Geographic Channel to produce a documentary about the recently declassified "MIS-X" World War II program, which communicated with and sent hidden escape and evasion materials to "Kriegies" in all 60-plus prison camps. Many of those interviewed in the Robert Galloway film spoke indirectly about MIS-X without mentioning it by name.

As I mentioned in my original message, we are especially interested in the story we've heard about P.O.W.s at Oflag-64 who requested a large shipment of escape aids in April or May of 1944. I have attached our original source of the story, a chapter taken from Lloyd Shoemaker's 1991 book, "The Escape Factory." I thought that maybe quickly reading the chapter might stir the memory of some of you and possibly lead to some interesting additional details.

Of course, any stories of escape, evasion and coded communication would also be great to hear about. Any photographs or footage records that tie into the World War II P.O.W. story would also be great to know of.

Thank you all again for all your help with this project, and we look forward to being in touch with you soon.

Best Regards, Nils



Veteran Application

Honor Flight recognizes American veterans for your sacrifices and achievements by flying you to Washington, DC to see YOUR memorial at **no cost**. Top priority (for which we are currently accepting application only) is given to WW II and terminally ill veterans from **all** wars. In the future, *Honor Flight* will be expanded to include Korean and Vietnam veterans. In order for *Honor Flight* to achieve this goal, guardians fly with the veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping veterans have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience. For what you and your comrades have given to us, please consider this a small token of appreciation from all of us at *Honor Flight*. For further information, please contact us a (937) 521-2400 or visit us at www.honorflight.org

YOUR NAME: _____ **NICK NAME:** _____
 (As it appears on your ID for airline travel) (If Applicable)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ WEIGHT: _____ AGE: _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT? _____
 _____ . TEE SHIRT SIZE: (S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL) _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT (son, daughter, etc): NAME: _____
 PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (someone available the day you travel):
 Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____
 PHONE: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Mobile: _____

SERVICE HISTORY: BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ RANK: _____

HOME TOWN (from which city and state did you enter the service?): _____

ACTIVITY DURING WWII: _____

MEDICAL: INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL **NOT** DISQUALIFY YOU. IT PERMITS US TO ASSESS THE SUPPORT WE NEED DURING THE TRIP. INFO IS FOR HONOR FLIGHT AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL ONLY.

Do you use mobility equipment? YES NO. If YES, please circle device: CANE WALKER WHEELCHAIR SCOOTER

MEDICATIONS (name and how often you take it):

MEDICATION	TAKEN HOW OFTEN?	MEDICATION	TAKEN HOW OFTEN?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Do you have any **drug allergies**? _____

Do you have a history of **seizure**? YES NO Please describe what type (i.e. grand mal, petit mal, other) _____

When was your last seizure? _____. If within past 5 years, STRONGLY advised you discuss trip with your private physician!

PLEASE COMPLETE BACK PAGE

Do you have problems with **motion sickness** (sea or air)? YES NO. If yes, is it controlled with medications? YES NO
If motion sickness is not controlled with medications, it is STRONGLY advised you discuss the trip with your private physician!

Do you have any **breathing problems**? YES NO. If YES, please describe: _____

Do you use a home nebulizer machine? YES NO. If YES, you are STRONGLY encouraged to discuss the trip with your private physician concerning the use of portable hand-held nebulizers during the trip.

Do you use **oxygen** at any time? YES NO. If YES, you will need your private physician to write a prescription for oxygen to be used during the flight and during the tour. Oxygen will be provided. The prescription should be turned in with the application.

Do you have a **problem walking** the length of a football field without assistance? YES NO. If yes, please describe the reason (e.g. lung problems, arthritis, heart problems, etc.): _____

Do you have a history of **open head injuries, sinus problems, or ear problems**? YES NO. If YES, have you flown since the open head injury, sinus or ear problems occurred? YES NO. If YES, did you have any problems? YES NO

If YES, it is STRONGLY advised you discuss the trip with your private physician. If you have NEVER flown since the open head injury, sinus or ear problems, again we STRONGLY advise you discuss the trip with your private physician.

Do you have a **urostomy or colostomy bag**? YES NO. If YES, please make sure the bag is vented prior to flight. If you do not know if your bag is vented, it is STRONGLY advised that you discuss this issue with your private physician.

Additional Comments or Concerns: _____

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY AND SIGN:

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that:

1. As photographic and video equipment are frequently used to memorialize and document *Honor Flight* trips and events, his/her image may appear in a public forum, such as the media or a website, to acknowledge, promote or advance the work of the *Honor Flight* program. I hereby release the photographer and *Honor Flight* from all claims and liability relating to said photographs. I hereby give permission for my images captured during *Honor Flight* activities through video, photo, or other media, to be used solely for the purposes of *Honor Flight* promotional material and publications, and waive any rights or compensation or ownership thereto.
2. I further state that medical insurance is the responsibility of the veteran and I understand that *Honor Flight* does NOT provide medical care. I understand that I accept all risks associated with travel and other *Honor Flight* activities and will not hold *Honor Flight* responsible for any injuries incurred by me while participating in the *Honor Flight* program

SIGNED: _____

DATE: ____/____/____ (E-mail applicants will be required to sign prior to actual flight date)


**Please submit this form to: Honor Flight, Inc.
ATTN: Veteran Application
300 E. Auburn Ave.
Springfield, OH 45505-4703**

Or e-mail to: veteran-application@honorflight.org

Or fax to: (937) 521-2580

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!

I read my father's ITEM when I visited him this week. Great issue and thanks for including the reunion info. ~ **Pat Bender, Philadelphia PA**

As many have expressed in the latest issue of the ITEM – Keep up the good work!! **Anthony (A.J.) DeSanto, Wakefield RI/Munich Germany**

What a GREAT newsletter!! Of course, I am printing it and adding it to my list of reference materials. ~ **Caroline Fenton, San Diego CA**

You are making the ITEM very interesting. ~ **Curtis Jones, Vineyard Haven MA**

Another wonderful newsletter--kudos to you for your (constant) hard work. ~ **Rosa Lee, Ft. Pierce FL**

The *Oflag 64 ITEM* is unbelievable. ~ **Jamie Nimmo, Seneca SC**

It was a terrific issue. Dottie and I discovered each of us had read it through immediately after starting it. Even the sadness of so many reports of loss of old friends and members of their families was presented with dignity and great response from members of our little group who reported or knew of sickness and loss. ~ **Bill Warthen, Vidalia GA**

You are doing a great job with the "ITEM", keep up the good work. ~ **Lillian Wright, Catonsville MD**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Ty Ankrom – grandson of Ernest Ankrom

Nils Cowan – television producer

Bob Fleege – new subscriber

John Glover – grandson of Adam Rodriguez

Douglas Shope – new subscriber

Kathleen MacIsaac – daughter of James MacIsaac

William Ullery – new subscriber

The website is an amazing collection of information and I look forward to reading everything I can. ~ **Nils Cowan, Washington D. C.**

What a great website and newsletter. ~ **Kathleen MacIsaac**

Thank you for maintaining a truly remarkable website. My sisters and I, as well as other family members - and there are many! - will enjoy reading the history and experiences our father shared with so many other brave Americans. Thank you so very much. ~ **Jamie Nimmo, Seneca SC**



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. **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.)
2. **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
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO.
5. **In the Presence of Mine Enemies** by Eugene L Daniel (**NOTE:** No longer available through Rose Daniel.)
6. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005.
7. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
8. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY.
9. **Kriegsgefangenen** (Prisoner of War) by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX
10. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee (produced by Bill Cory, Jim Bickers, and Frank Diggs, in Louisville KY in 1933). Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL.
11. **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)
12. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95)
13. **Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64** by Clarence Meltesen. Story of Liberation from Oflag 64. Publisher: Oflag 64 Press. San Francisco, CA (\$25.00)
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. (An excellent tribute to Henry Soderberg) 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)

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.)

Roads to Liberation by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for a \$5 per copy shipping 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

Postage Fund Donors

THANKS to all who have generously donated to the Postage Fund. Without such thoughtful contributions, mailing the ITEM and other materials or information would not be possible.

Ernest "Snap" Ankrom
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Curtis Jones
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Bob Thompson
Pat Waters
Lillian Wright

If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail your donation to:

Joe Seringer
1930 Edwards
Wooster OH 44691-1927

or to

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Avenue
Longview WA 98632-4437



TAPS

James G. Evans

1917 - 1985

Jamie Nimmo, daughter of James G. Evans, has sent word that her father passed away in December of 1985. No online obituary was available. However, Jamie sent this information: "He was a career Army officer, retiring from active duty as a Lt. Col. in 1970. He served in Schweinfurt and Mannheim Germany, Fort Sam Houston Texas, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Tehran Iran before his retirement at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, GA. He is buried at the Old Stone Church Cemetery in Clemson SC."



William E. Fabian

1920 - 2007

FABIAN, Bill (William) E., of Harlingen, TX passed away Dec. 24, 2007. He was 87.

Bill was serving with the 82nd Airborne when he was captured in Sicily. He was held in Oflag 64 and Lukenwalde until liberation. Both Bill and his wife, Margaret, were NSOs and members of the Rio Grande Chapter, AXPOW.



Published in the March/April issue of the "EX-POW BULLETIN."

Lewis W. Lowe

1917 - 2008



Lewis W. Lowe, was born August 10, 1917 on the farm of his parents, Charlie Clark and Katie Blanche (Ramsey) Lowe, in the then Hay Capital of the World, Gilbert, Arizona, albeit with a population of about 1/10th of 1 percent of what it is today. He passed away Saturday morning, April 19, 2008. He, along with his three younger sisters, Lucille (Lowe) Coppedge, deceased, Mildred (Lowe) Kasitz, deceased, and Velma (Lowe) Walker, of Stanfield/Casa Grande, attended the old Gilbert Grade School, now the cornerstone of the Gilbert Historical Museum, and the adjacent Gilbert High School, where he played football. At the urging of one of his teachers, Lewis attended the University of Arizona during the Great Depression, notwithstanding the failure of the Bank of Gilbert where his dad had deposited the proceeds

from the alfalfa, cotton, and corn crops that Lewis helped to plant and harvest during his childhood and adolescence with the help of horse drawn teams and later mechanized farm equipment, a tractor of which is at the Gilbert Historical Museum. Lewis participated in ROTC while earning his electrical engineering degree at the U of A. Following graduation and Pearl Harbor, Lewis entered the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant, responsible for repairing radio communications between tanks. He participated in the North Africa invasion in November of 1942, a costly learning experience for Dwight Eisenhower and others, but paving the way for the subsequently successful June, 1944, D-Day Invasion of Normandy. Unfortunately, as Lewis described it, on December 2, 1942, he became a guest of the Germans for the next 2 1/2 years, being moved from the tip of Italy, through Germany, and ultimately to Oflag 64 in Poland. Oflag 64 resembled in many respects Stalag Luft III depicted in the Steve McQueen movie "The Great Escape", including unsuccessful escape tunneling shored up with bunk bed slats, and surreptitious dirt dispersal through pant legs. Liberation finally came after a grueling 48 day march of over 360 miles on severely limited food in sub-zero snow and ice starting at the end of January, 1945. Beginning at over 1300 prisoners, Lewis numbered in the less than one-half who finished the march, accompanied by the Germans retreating from the Russian advance. Toward the very end of the march General Patton, in his only decision during the WWII he later regretted, had one of his officers launch an ill-fated attempt to rescue the Oflag 64 prisoners, including then Colonel John Waters, son-in-law of Patton. Shortly after returning from WWII, a friend introduced him to a student nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital, Janet Vondracek, who was training to be a cadet nurse in WWII and who happened, coincidentally, to be the first female born at Good Sam, at the time birthing shifted from home to hospital. They fell in love, marrying in November, 1946, and remaining in love for over 61 years. He and Janet had four children: Linda Lowe, Nancy (married to Ralph Lusby), Charlie Lowe and Joyce (married to Richard Kurashige). And he was a dad for Gerlinde Krissel, a foreign exchange student at Washington High for the 1965-66 school year. Lewis worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Phoenix as an electrical engineer for some thirty years, helping bring the Bureau's hydro-electric power to the ever expanding Valley, in particular from Lake Mohave's Davis Dam, as well as supervising maintenance of power lines from Davis Dam, Lake Mead's Hoover Dam and Lake Havasu's Parker Dam all on the Colorado River and construction of the Pinnacle Peak power substation. In addition to his wife and four



children, he is survived by his sister Velma Walker and six grand children (Rachel Lusby, Mark Lusby (married to Brooke), Sarah Lusby, Ben Lusby, Ian Kurashige, and Jennifer Kurashige). Lewis, a quiet, humble, exceedingly self-less man, is and will forever be sorely missed by his family who loved and admired him for his patience, his wonderful dry wit, and most importantly wisdom. They all look forward to being re-united with him as a result of his and their faith in Jesus Christ. A funeral service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m., Saturday morning, April 26, 2008, at the A. L. Moore-Grimshaw Mortuary at 710 W. Bethany Home Road, Phoenix, Arizona. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to either: (1) Bethany Bible Church [6060 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013] or (2) Hospice of the Valley [1510 East Flower St., Phoenix, AZ 85014].

Published in The Arizona Republic from 4/24/2008 - 4/26/2008.

Adam B. Rodriguez
1909 - 1950

John Glover sent word that his grandfather, Adam B. Rodriguez passed away in 1950. John reported: "He was born 9/9/09 in Franklin, LA, and enlisted in the army some time in the late 1920's. Shortly before WWII, he received a direct commission as a lieutenant, and eventually went to Europe to fight with the 2nd Infantry Division. He was captured in Belgium, and sent to Oflag 64. After the war, he returned home to Texas, and stayed in the Army. He was stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, Ft. Lewis, and also was stationed in Japan during the occupation, as one of MacArthur's staff. He fought in Korea and was killed in action in September of 1950. He was married to Maurine Neal, and had three children: Roddy (my father,) Ron, and Carol."



No other information was available.

Morris E. Thompson
1925 - 2002

We have recently learned of the death of Morris E. Thompson, who passed away December 5, 2002 in Dallas TX.



His obituary was published in The Dallas Morning News online December 7, 2002 but is no longer available for viewing.

Arthur Warren Bryant, Jr.
1914 - 2008

Arthur Warren Bryant, Jr., 93, entered into rest May 16, 2008 due to renal failure.

He was born November 26, 1914 in Princeton, Illinois and was of the Methodist faith. He was an Army veteran of WWII and a POW. He moved to Lakeland with his wife and 2 children in 1957 from Michigan. He worked in sales at Food and Machinery Corporation.



He was preceded in death by his wife Vivian King Bryant, also of Lakeland and is survived by brother Blair Bryant of Mason, Mich., sister Harriet Potter of Cody, Wyoming, son Bruce Bryant of Trinidad, Colorado, daughter Nancy Bryant of Lakeland, FL and nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 2 pm at Gentry-Morrison Northside Chapel with a visitation 1 hour prior to the service. He will be laid to rest at Oak Hill Burial Park.

Published in the Ledger on 5/20/2008.

Ellen N. Bryan
1904 - 1998

We have received word that Ellen Bryan (94), widow of Wright Bryan passed away a few years back. If anyone has additional information regarding the date of her passing or an obituary, please send it to Elodie Caldwell at either address on the front page of this ITEM.

Helen Chappell sent the following:

We were close to Wright and Ellen years ago and spent time in their home in Clemson, So. Carolina when Wright was President of that University. Ellen was a close friend of Margaret Mitchell who wrote, "Gone With The Wind".

Ellen and Wright were so active in the early years of our Reunions.

Bill Warthen added this information about Ellen and her husband, Wright:

Ellen Bryan was our honoree at the Atlanta Reunion in 1995 that my family and I led. She was in her early 90's at the time, and was delighted to participate, came to two or three of our parties, My Ellen would pick her up at her apartment on Peachtree Street, very close to Lenox Square.

Wright was a war correspondent for the Atlanta Journal, very tall, 6'8 and very handsome and very friendly. He had scooped the world on the D-Day Invasion, by conning his way on to a C-47 that was flying paratroopers to Normandy in the middle of the night before the landing early that morning. When he returned about daylight on June 6th, he got to a phone and called Atlanta to tell them the Invasion

was on, and what he had done to witness the beginning.

Just weeks later, evidently while taking further chances, he was wounded in his leg and was captured. I think his treatment as a prisoner was just as if he had been in uniform, and was sent to the Berlin area, hospitalized and operated on by a German Surgeon. This would have been in July, probably, and he didn't make it to Schubin until much later, probably early in November.

I arrived at Schubin at 23:00 Christmas Eve, and we were greeted warmly the next morning. Everyone wanted news about the war, and 'back home', and someone learned I had gone to the Citadel, and they told me there was a fellow in the hospital who had recently arrived who had gone there, and his name was Jack Monaghan. That was my college roommate whom I had not seen in over 2 years, so I dashed over to surprise him. He had also been wounded and treated along with Wright, and they had become very close friends while at the hospital and had traveled to Oflag together, and were bunked right next to each other. I visited almost every day and became friends with Wright because of our interests in things Georgia .

He told me he had three children, two daughters, and a son who was about 2 years old. They came to Vidalia in 1948 to speak to a Kiwanis Lady's night and I met Ellen at a cocktail party afterwards and everyone enjoyed both of them.

In a few years they moved to Cleveland, he was Editor of the major Cleveland paper. I discovered Ellen and Wright's Son, even taller than his father at 6'9, who worked in a prominent bookstore in Atlanta. We became friends whom I always visited when in Atlanta. Ellen Bryan died in about 1999.

We invited their son and their two daughters to the Reunion we sponsored at Columbus, GA in about 2002 or 2003. The younger daughter came for the last two days and brought her little boy, who got lots of attention.

Ellen was daughter of a former mayor of Atlanta and the Family were very prominent. The son died about two years ago, soon after retiring from Borders. He died of cancer only two months after retirement.

Helen and Roy were very close friends of the Bryans, traveled with them back to Schubin only a few years after the war.

Other limited information was found on the following website: www.obits.eons.com

Louanna Matthews Casner

1921 - 2008

Louanna Matthews Casner, 86, a homemaker and member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Falls Church, died January 29 of an

ischemic bowel disorder at Inova Fairfax Hospital. She lived in Falls Church for 53 years.

She was born in Zanesville, Ohio, and moved to Philadelphia in 1935. She attended Pierce Business School in Philadelphia and worked as a secretary for the Philadelphia Phillies and Atlas Power in the early 1940s.

In 1942, she met her husband, Al Casner, who was in the Army at the time. They were married before he was sent to North Africa. He was captured fighting against German field marshal Erwin Rommel in 1943 and was a prisoner of war in Poland for 29 months.

In the mid-1950s, Mrs. Casner and her daughter lived in Japan before moving to the Washington area when her husband got a job with the Army Department.

She was active in family activities, especially going to horse shows and watching her daughter ride and take lessons.

Mrs. Casner loved to spend vacations at Rehoboth Beach, Del. She enjoyed shopping, making and sewing clothes, and caring for her dog and cats.

In her younger days, she played bridge, golf and tennis. Every weekend for several years, she rode horses in Rock Creek Park on the bridle trails with her husband and daughter.

Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Al Casner of Falls Church; her daughter, Judy Fletcher of Woodbridge; and two grandsons.

Published in the Washington Post 3/4/08

Virginia W. Evans

1921 - 2008

Virginia Williams Evans, 86, widow of Lt. Col. (ret.) James G. Evans, died Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Anderson Area Medical Center. A native of Seneca she was the daughter of the late Hiram J. and Minnie Gambrell Williams. She was an exceptional mother and career Army wife who traveled the world with her husband and family. She was active and involved in community life until her death. She is survived by daughters: Janet Tippet and husband Roger of Murrell's Inlet, SC, Virginia Anne Neal and husband Dick of San Antonio, TX, and Jamie Nimmo and husband Jim of Seneca. She is also survived by all 6 of her siblings, brothers: Harold Williams and wife Janie of Walhalla, Jerry Williams and wife Sarah of Anderson, sisters: Mildred Rackley of Seneca, Evelyn Dilworth and husband Cecil of Florence, Edna McAbee of Pendleton and Faye Guy and husband Joe of Seneca; 7 grandchildren: Mitch, Matt, Greg and Kelly Tippet, Amy Shaffer, Katherine and Grace Clark; great-grandchildren: Charlie and William Shaffer and Grady and Henry Tippet. She is also survived by sister-in-

laws: Muriel E. Snodgrass of Columbia and Sue E. Snyder of Brevard, NC. Funeral services will be Monday at 3pm in the chapel of Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home with burial to follow in Old Stone Church Cemetery in Clemson. The family will receive friends on Monday at the funeral home from 2-3pm prior to the service. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Helping Hands of Clemson, PO Box 561, Clemson, SC 29633. Condolences may be expressed online at www.robinsfuneralhomes.com or in person at Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home, Central-Clemson Commons, which is assisting the family.

Published in the Anderson Independent-Mail from 3/9/2008 - 3/10/2008.

Norman E. Hoffner, Sr.
 1917 – 2008
 (Friend of Oflag 64)

Norman E. Hoffner Sr., 90, died Friday, March 7, 2008, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. Born in New Brunswick on July 23, 1917, to the late Norman and Florence Hoffner, he resided in Edison for over 50 years. Mr. Hoffner was employed as a sheet metal mechanic for Ross Engineering Co.



Funeral arrangements will be announced by Selover Funeral Home, 555 Georges Road, North Brunswick.

Home News Tribune Online, 03/8/08 (Additional information was published originally but is no longer available online.)



Kathleen MacIsaac (daughter of James A. MacIsaac) recently found our website and reported the following: My dad was captured at Anzio in late January 1944....He often repeated the same stories over the years and I never tired of hearing them....He told me about the kindness of some Polish people who hid him in their barn and later gave him a small prayer book written in Polish when he departed. He taught me that mustard seeds in the fields could help stave off hunger if you ever found yourself in a pinch....My dad passed away in 2000. She also wrote: "I was so happy to find the Oflag 64

website....Thanks to Google I found you within 2 minutes. What a great website and newsletter. I



especially loved delving into the archives of the original ITEM. I'll send photos of my dad. Perhaps someone will remember him. Looking forward to the upcoming ITEM and to perusing more of the web site." If you have information to share with Kathleen regarding

her dad, please email her at:
go-kdm@worldnet.att.net

Hymns from Lewis W. Lowe's Memorial Program

The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less,
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus

On Christ the solid rock I stand
 All other ground is sinking sand
 All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
 O may I then in Him be found,
 Dressed in His righteousness along,
 Faultless to stand before the throne.

(Repeat chorus)

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
 Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shouts of
 acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
 And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

(Repeat chorus)

Remembrances of LEWIS LOWE

The following remembrances are from Lewis Lowe's children and were read by Lew's son Charlie at his funeral.

LINDA

1. Helping Dad solder resistors, capacitors, and transistors onto circuit boards in the early 60's as he built a HeathKit stereo amplifier and tuner. And later when he helped her and her friend Barbara Bernstein build transistor radios for their freshman year science project at Washington High.

NANCY

1. Nancy remembers when she caught the measles when she was 10 years old. It was during the summer, and she could hear all of the kids in the neighborhood outside playing. Dad would come home after work and read her fairy tales from her favorite books.

CHARLIE – A couple of his favorite memories are:

1. Dad helping to build Charlie a tree house in the back yard's big Mulberry tree, with a rope ladder that could be pulled up to prevent access by sisters if needed.
2. Building a gasoline-powered go cart that Charlie steered with his feet and had endless fun with.

JOYCE

1. Joyce remembers the time, she was about 20, when Dad took her with him on a job. He often used the Bureau of Reclamation's helicopter to monitor electric power lines, find where problems were and drop crews in remote areas to repair.

On this one occasion, Joyce rode along. At one point they landed inside a big construction company yard. Apparently it took a lot of the people in the construction yard by surprise, and they came over to look at the helicopter and see what was going on. Dad and his colleagues got out and went over to talk to a group of curious, while Joyce was standing next to the helicopter with the pilot. The people in the yard wanted to know who Joyce was, and so with a straight face, Dad said she was his and the other men's supervisor, all of whom were more than twice her age. The people looked at her in incredulous amazement.

When Dad and Joyce were reminiscing in the Hospital about this incident during his last hospital stay at St. Josephs, it still brought a smile to his mouth and a twinkle to his eye.

Dad was generous with his time and skills. He would help those less fortunate. An elderly widow at church, a neighbor on the street where we lived, wherever he saw a need.

He was a gentle man and a gentleman. Notwithstanding all of the pain and discomfort Dad experienced in the last few weeks of his life, mostly in the hospital, when the myriad of different doctors asked him – "How do you feel, Mr. Lowe" he would say – "With my hands".

Whenever the nurses would wake him up to take his blood pressure and temperature, or poke him day and night to get some more blood for tests, he would say with quiet sincerity, "Thank you".

* * * * *

Dad, you were always kind, supportive, patient, compassionate, and wise.

You never needed to say much. Your actions spoke much louder than words ever could of how you loved us.

You were the best Dad we could ever have had.

We miss you so very much, and will treasure dearly our memories of you.

Thank you, Dad, for everything. We love you.

Your kids.