

Vol. VII, #1
October 1971

A real "Hello" to each of you. It's been a long time since I have sat down to get a real newsy item together. Of course you have received the Special Tour Edition gotten together by "The Committee" (Mainly Frank Maxwell and Charlie Eberle). This will be a regular occasionally published edition of the Item and its a long time in coming to you.

Much has transpired. Lots of new names, need new addresses and much news. So here goes. It will be a long one so stay with it Ed.

TOUR TO OFLAG 64

According to all reports those that didn't go missed a bang-up time. It was a fantastic once in a lifetime event arranged by Scandinavian Airlines and Lou Romero (New York District Sales Manager and "the Committee"). The Polish part handled by Wanda Rudzinski, Dana Travel Service, Mineola, Long Island). Those that didn't go, find a guy near you who did, go see his pictures and get some of the "flavor" of the trip.

One mystery that we haven't solved is a pre-embarkation telegram from San Antonio, Texas signed, The PO's. No one has been able to identify the sender of this telegram. It's from one of us who has had a heart attack. We want to thank the person for the nice message. Was it Father Brach?

TOUR MEMBERS

Make sure you send your picture taking lottery figures to Irv Yarock so that he can figure out the winner of a fabulous prize. Great idea, Irv!

As a direct result of the publicity, news releases etc. of the tour we have added about 25 names to our mailing list. To each of you who has sent names to add, my sincere thanks. Amon Carter leads the list with at least ten or twelve. Great work! Keep 'em coming.

Ray Chappell is checking into the possibility of obtaining copies of Paul Marable's recent private edition book of his memoirs.

We will miss..... George "Stud" Beasley who died January 23, 1971. After playing golf he returned home not feeling well and passed away.

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Many of you write to me personal and informative letters. Currently, I just haven't found the time to reply individually so may I take this means to say thanks to each of you and hope that you will understand.

Since the last ITEM I have received notes from:

William Kleystuber
J. Walter Takacs
J. E. Boggess, M.D.
Jack Rathbone

Matt Smith
Henry Soderberg
Brooks Kleber

and many others. Thanks again to each of you.

As a result of the News Releases on our recent TOUR, I received a letter from a group named POW-MIA. They have been organized for helping P.O.W. in Viet Nam. I just bring this to your attention and indications are that they have State coordinators whom you may desire to contact if you would want to contribute in time or money to this effort. Walt Takacs has done his part.

Most all of you, I'm sure read about the death of Brig. General Wm. Ross Bond. Many sent clippings from their local papers. One of several Generals who have been lost during the Vietnam War. Those of you who knew him I'm sure are proud to have been exposed to such an outstanding leader and servant of our Country.

Further we will miss:

Amon Carter received a recent letter from George Van Millett, Jr. sister. In case you didn't know he passed away in 1955 of leukemia in Germany. She also stated that Col. Millet had returned from Camp along with another American Lieutenant thru Russia after being assisted by some Poles.
(Thanks Amon)

Just received word from "Curly" Curtis that Major Spurgeon passed away very suddenly while on a vacation trip. Would like further details from the Boys in Iowa. Thanks.

Frank Diggs came up with a "WOW" of an article on his visit to Poland with us. The June 28, 1971 issue of U. S. News and World Report carried the story and is excellent reading even for those who took the trip. Beautifully done Frank.

Brooks Kleber continues to amaze me. His recent book review of "Escape Room" by Airey Neave in February issue of Military Affairs was quite a surprise and very neatly done.

Just a reminder from your friendly editor as well as to acquaint those whose names have just been added to our list.

These ITEMS are continued in your behalf on a volunteer contribution basis and so..... whenever you have an extra buck or so just send it this way to help defray the costs of postage and printing. Thanks.
(Editor)

Up to date address lists on 3 x 5 cards are available at \$6.00 per list. Just send me a note and tell me and we'll get one off to you.

Tall, lean, pipe-smoking Ed. Batte, D.V.M. was elected President of the North Carolina Association of Professions at their Annual Meeting in February. Ed is a professor at North Carolina State University. He also is quite a boat enthusiast.

Does any one know a William D. Price, Jr., 2215 Portland Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40212?

Dick Eberhart is still coming up with "gooney" ideas. I can't help but pass them on to you. A Newfoundland pistol which when triggered shoots the bullet in reverse at the puller of the trigger.

Did you ever see bald headed Dick with a full beard? Come to the '72 Reunion in Washington, if only to see a picture of him. He sent me one. He may still have it.

Sometime in April 1970 our one and only CIA man, along with his Gnadige Frau were guests at the White House of President and Mrs. Nixon. Some Class!

Sometime ago that great take-off artist Dick Rossbach wrote me about the author David Westheimer "Song of the Young Sentry." Background material came from Camp di Concentrament 21 at CHIETI ITALY. Also, "Von Ryan's Express" includes background of CHIETI. Those that were there can now keep busy for the winter with these two books.

Of interest to me was the fact that Tony Lumpkin before going on the "Trip" spent some time in Russia and England. While in Russia he talked with the baggage handler in Moscow. Turned out to be a soldier who had gone thru Exin and Szubin with the Russian Army in '45. Small World! Tony also indicated that General Alger was given great credit for assisting in finding the late Che Geuvarra, in the mountains of S.A.

The Trip Committee is planning a suit against the POZNAN daily paper for including a picture of Maxwell with your editors name listed in the caption. Their news story on our return to Szubin was four columns wide and 3/4 of a regular news page including four pictures. Come to the Washington reunion in '72 and see your 'ole buddies in Polish print.

"Retired" Col. Schaefer since 1954 has been far from that. He's gotten married, traveled widely, written and had published three books and working on the fourth and still enjoys a wee drop of Bourbon.

"Doc." Peter Graffagnino who had "office hours" every day on the trip wrote an article for his medical bulletin on the trip and he will be glad to send you a copy or this office can make a copy. Write: Dr. Peter C. Graffagnino, Medical Arts Building, Columbus, Ga. 31901.

SPECIAL TO "TRIPPERS"

Jack Rathbone suggests that on the trip the following proved to be true:

Best Pilot	Shirley Friedman
Quietest	Roy Chappell (at least in Polish Customs)
Mushroom & Fern Expert	Brooks Kleber
Ventilation Engineer	Frank Diggs
Most Conservative	Dan Lewandowski
Dresser	
Most Suspicious	The Lowe's (Obviously)

If the rest of you good Kriegies don't understand the above then come to Washington in October '72 and talk to these good people to learn the reasoning for the above classifications.

John Carpenter has again moved and thanks for letting me know your new address John. Whenever you go through or are near Harrisburg, Pa. stop at the Ramada Inn, Harrisburg West, 5401 Carlise Pike which is near Mechanicsburg. I'm sure that John as General Manager will greet you personally.

Another note on Col. Schaefer. Amon Carter's Fort Worth-Star Telegram reviewed the Colonel's latest book, People Too -- Pageant Press, New York \$4.95. It's the story about many of the people (not the war) that the Colonel met from the time of capture to time of release.

Ray Klinkenborg wrote and indicated that his good wife Eleanor had a good long rest after her trip because of a heart attack, but that she has recovered very nicely. Thanks for letting me know Ray and the best to Eleanor.

This note from "Doc" DiFrancesco, about General Bond, "I met Bill Bond while hiding in the Barn at Exin".

To close out this "catch-up" issue of the ITEM. The winner of the photo taking guessing contest for the fellows on the trip was Frank Diggs. He guessed 6005 pictures were taken but only 6001 pictures were taken. Irv Yarock who so ably ran the lottery also very ably conceived and had made the prize. Its a specially written column from the OFLAG 64 ITEM printed on metal on both sides and sealed in a lucite block.

Thanks Irv for handling this, the monies contributed were used to cover the postage for the mailing to all of the report on the trip.

With Frank Diggs as chairman of our '72 reunion maybe we could prevail upon him to bring it to one of our meetings so you can all see this very beautiful and unique winning prize. (Another reason to be in Washington in October '72). Your Editor humbly apologizes for having to report on this item.

John Slack
Editor

NEED NEW ADDRESSES: Lt. Gen. James Alger
Mr. Thomas Finan - Maryland
Col. Peter Mirokian

NEW NAMES OR ADDRESSES:

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