

Prisoner's drawing of Oflag 64, reproduced from The Item of January 1, 1945

BY JAMES BICKERS

Drawing does not show the three, high, barbed wire fences surrounding the 900 feet by 1200 feet area of the P.O.W.-Camp; nor are the eleven guard towers shown.

VOLUME # XV

2 POST OFLAG 64 ITEM. APRIL 1988

GLADWYNE, PA Spring must be here ! I'm listening to a baseball game, its 65 outside with the sun shining brightly.

I also had the opportunity, thanks to Henry Soderberberg, to greet his Queen here in this countr^e on a visit to celebrate the birth of Emmanuel Swedenberg 300 years ago. Also for the 350th Anniversary of the arrival of Swedish pilgrims in this country in Delaware. Queen Silvia was in Bryn Athyn (outside of Philadelphia) to dedicate a new library at the Academy of the New Church. (Swedenborgian.)

Henry's Company S A S also took the opportunity to present to the Library , the original oil painting by Otto Neilsen of Emmanuel Swedenborg who also designed a lighter than aircraft in 1714 which Henry has written about and has had a book published about it.

So much for Spring and activities from Gladwyne.

WINSTON, N.C Marion Parrot sent me his change of address for which I am grateful. Thanks Marion. See you in S. A. in October I hope.

SEA, HAWAII Sad news from Fred Livingston. His wife Terry passed away on March 1st 1988. Many of us remember Terry well, having attended Las Vegas Reunion where she and Fred had an enjoyable time together both of them making out well on the "SLOTS".

We all who knew her will miss her and are with you as you relive the many fine happy & joyous times you had with her.

Sure looking forward to seeing you in S. A. in P.F. October. Thanks much for your nice contribution for the P.F.

Glad you enjoyed Fergle's Book. I also thought it was great. Thanks for letting me know of your close association with him.

ALTOONA, WI Being a Pennsylvaniaⁿ, Gordon Berg^A almost living here as I was not aware of on Altoona Wi. Thanks for advising of your change of address,

Gordon and I hope you can make S.A. in Oct.

ENTERPRISE, AL How nice to hear from Jerry Sage. The needling of the U S P S to change his address finally got him to write and let me know that he had moved to a new home that was built for Jerry & Mary Jon not for Jack. Great! Many happy years in it, Jerry.

He writes that the address actually tells where the house is on the shore of a lake. He also tells me that his book is still available personally inscribed and mailed in a padded mailer for the same price, \$17.95. This is a hard bound copy. See his address under change of addresses.

Clarence Ferguson's address is:
Clarence Ferguson
Groseback, TX 76642

Incidentally, if you haven't read either of the books by the above authors take time out to order them now. They are both excellent.

Send the same amount to Clarence for his book. Thanks Jerry for the nice contribution to the

See you in S.A.!

LAS VEGAS, N.V. How nice of Alan Dunbar to send me a copy of the application for the P.O.W. Medal. Thanks much Alan.

As you suggested I think it best to include a copy to all Kriegies with this mailing. This way you may get an extra copy but at least it will save each of you from trying to track one down.

Alan also informs me that next of kin use the same form to make application for the P.O.W. medal. Hope you enjoy all the activities in Vegas during June and Sept. See you in S.A. Oct.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Thank you very much David Glendinning for also sending me copies of the application for the P.O.W. medal. As you can see from the above I am going to include a copy of the application in this newsletter mailing.

I plan also to keep copies on hand for those that mislay or misplace the copy I include here. Thanks much for your concern and thoughtfulness. I discarded your envelope so will have to depend on Lorraine to get this info back to you. Our Reunion as you may know is going to be in San Antonio at the Hilton Hotel, Oct 6, 7, 8, 9, so feel free to join us if you need a nice vacation. Thanks again for your consideration.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Omitted from the previous newsletter were two letters of kudos to Wilbur Sharp and his Kommittee and the great job they all did last October in Alexandria, VA.

Also included was the cartoon reproduced elsewhere. Careful, fellows, don't get upset if your spouse walks in with a duplicate of the dress. The Kudos letters were from Dan "Trombone" Waful and Jim Bickers. Hope you all make it to S. A. Be another great one! Don't miss it.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX This is a reminder that Len Vaden has informed me that there are still over 15 spaces left on trip to West Texas after the Reunion. Its always a great fun time and we all have a fine Vacation.

Come on Now! Sign up while there is still a chance. Fill up the Bus. If you want more info call any of the below listed members.

- Pat Barnell USSA Travel
1-800-531-7245
- Len Vaden-OFLAG 64 Coordinator
1-512-852-4605
- John F. Slack OFLAG ITEM
1-215-642-9173

Of course the smart thing to do is to call Pat Barnell because she can take your reservation. Len or I cannot do that. All we'll do is talk you into going along. It will be a great group and a wonderful trip.

As of this writing Len informs me we only have 7 couples. Come, join us now!

CHEYENNE, WY When Bill Korber writes a letter he beleives in making sure one doesn't forget what we have been through as well as presenting one with some fond memories of things we may have forgotten about.

Thus the full enclosure of one side of Bill's letter along with this newsletter. The poem by the late Father Kane and the quote by the late Col. Drake are both extremely memorable ones. Thanks much Bill for not allowing us to forget.

I am sorry to report that I do not have Father Kane's date of death on my list but if pushed I could go thru my files and locate it Hopefully, someone out there do have it readily available and will send it to me for forwarding to you. That way we will both record it. My list starts with 1976 so it may well have been before that. (Will advise as soon as I learn. Editor)

CLEARWATER, FL. Just after the 1st of the year I received a fabulous letter from George & Janet Rosenthal. For your info they are in the Travel Agency business. What a way to go!

The letter was a highlight of 1987 and major events and places they had been in. No moss gathered under their feet. From Florida to Montana to Hawaii and other places in between including a wedding in Rye, N.Y.

Of course the stop-over in Alexandria was a "super" stop which they thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks Janet and George for a fine epistle.

POTOMAC, MD Always great to hear from General Waters. Usually two or three times between newsletters.

He is still taking care of his bees who without fail produce their fine product which is a great health food product that is not only pleasant to taste & eat but good for one's body. Glad You are keeping active General. Hope you don't stir up the bees too often. See you in San Antonio.

KE GENEVA, WI Nice long letter from the "young-'un" Tommy Johnson. He lead off with a notice of the death of Patrick Trainor who passed away November 2, 1987. Sorry I haven't noted this before. Tommy could you obtain an obituary for me from Mrs. Trainor. Tommy tells me that at the Veterans home in South or Consequences, N.M. a bronze plaque has been placed in Pat's honor.

Tommy reports having heard from Ray Marniem about the reunion. He hoped to stop in the Carolinas to see Lynn Mansaker & Charlie "glueglove" Goodman on a trip to Florida.

Tommy, See if you could get me a copy of Ted Blisworth book. I have not heard about it or read it. I don't even know the title. Tommy also sends his regards to all the rest of we "kids". Thanks Tommy we love it when we're called kids. We hope you can make San Antonio.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. Thanks Clarence Meltesen for forwarding Carl Tschantz's obituary many months ago. appreciate it. I have continued her name on our mailing list. Hope to see you in San Antonio.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Always nice to get a letter from Ormond Hessler. Tells me he's been buying the books I have mentioned. Aren't they great Ormond? As to stories of the "March" I think that the book written by Metcalf which is a private publication and the recent one by Clarence Ferguson tell the story very well.

Clarence Ferguson
Groseback, TX 76642

Kriegsgefangen and I forgotten the title of Metcalf but you could write him

Clayton Metcalf
408 N. Rowls St
Enterprise, AL 36330

Also the recent one by Clarence Meltesen
810 Gonzalea Dr 4-D
San Francisco, CA 94132

deals strictly with the "MARCH" and most of the side trips also.

David Warthen just wrote the recent 4 pages (enclosed) that mentions similar incidents as you did about Larry Leas almost being shot because he stole a chicken. Were it not for a Red Cross Parcel he probably could have been.

I recall the great treatment we got at the Naval Base at Swinenunde. That was one day we almost loved our enemies.

Great to hear from you Orm and hope you can hop over to S. A. in October. Thanks much for your contribution to the P.F.

PADUCAH, KY Ironically in early January I received a note from the late James R. Dew advising that a Memorial Fund had been established in memory of "Thelma Wilson Dew" and that contributions were being accepted at the: Westminster Presbyterian Church

2732 Broadway
Parucah, KY 42001

In the same letter I also received a very nice contribution to the P.F. from Col. Dew

BISHOP, CA Thanks much for your letter as well as the contribution to the P.F., Higgi Hope your health has been improving and that we may enjoy your presence in S.A. in October.

PITTSFIELD, MA Sure glad to get a letter from a long time reader who now having retired wrote to let me know that he is still around and did one of the things he has always wanted to do but didn't take time to do it.

He also sent me a nice contribution which also helps.

Good to hear from you Tom^{LAWSON} and hope you are also planning to make our reunion in S.A. on October 6, 7, 8, 9. Would love to meet you!

Prof. Carl Hansen
49 Auburn Rd
West Hartford, CT 06119

The above is the only address I have. You may want to check the American EX POW organization thru Alan Dunbar for Nunmally's and Pat Ward's Address.

Alan Dunbar
4675 Green Canyon Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 8903

We used to have a Ward on our Mailing list but he passed away and I don't recall his first name was Pat.

He came to our Dubuque, IA reunion for the one rd only time I recall.

Hope you will be able to locate the other two persons would appreciate it if you locate them that you advise me of their addresses. In the meantime with Carl Hans so close by have fun with both of you getting to-gether.

Try also to make San Antonio in October.

Columbia, S.C. Don Graul wrote an interesting letter back in December about the wonderful time he is having sailing from the Cup races in Australia to an on board wedding off Newport, R.I. He also attended a 507th Inf assoc Reunion at Ft. Benning.

This unit has also been reactivated and runs the Training School.

He also said he took just one day off to celebrate 70 years of going full speed. Thanks Don for a different type of letter and also for the nice contribution for the P.F. Looks like we'll see you in October at S.A.

MANKATO, MN Royal Lee writes, before Christmas, who has come up with a new name for our list.

This all came about in a discussion with "Cheerful Charley" Cheatham who located John Sims and Royal forwarded it to me for adding to the list.

His name is now on our list and look forward to hearing from him.

Thanks much Royal also for your contribution to the P.F. See you in S.A.

Easley, S.C. Welcome John Sims to our Ex-Kriegie group. Sure look forward to seeing you in San Antonio where our next reunion will be held in October 6, 7, 8, 9, 1988.

Albert Cecil is our General Chairman and is gearing for a big turnout. Hope you can make it.

Las Vegas, NV Real nice of Alan Dunbar to tell me about his exposure to a VCR tape entitled, "POW---Americans in Enemy Hands".

This was on TV. Perhaps many of you may have already seen it. I Haven't seen it. I haven't seen it yet. Any one desiring to see it, put your order in for it and I'll send it to you for a \$7.50 charge to go to the P.F. I believe I am right in saying that it is a privately produced for commercial purposes. USAA sponsored it.

It covers WW II, Korea and Vietnamese situations I'm looking forward to seeing it.

If at all possible I will try to work thru the S. A. committee to see if they have any spots to have it shown. This is a very "iffy" possibility.

We will see Alan in San Antonio with all his family, maybe not the "Dog".

Thanks Alan for all the info and will definitely look forward to seeing you & Lila.

SAINT DAVID, AZ The picture taken at Alexandria are in the works as mentioned in the last memo hopefully received by all. Kenneth Van raised the question in a January letter to me and you should be receiving the Reunion book shortly. However, if some of you would like to contact the Photographer for your personal orders feel free. Write to "Reunions" Inc 2208 Hillcrest Orlando, FL 32803

I have always ^{RECEIVED} very courteous ^{SERVICE} in dealing with problems.

Thanks Ken for the inquiries and hope to see you in San Antonio in Oct.

(The delay in the booklets mainly due to the time required for layout by our own people and Harold & Helen Tallman who have spent many, many hours on the layout prior to returning the proof picture lay out to Reunions for printing & binding. I hope they were able to keep their heads above water during that period. Editor:)

CUPERTINO, CA Late January a letter from Lt. Col. John E. Cannon advising me in January by a clipping from the Army Times of the status of the processing for P.O.W. medals. As you all have read previously the current status is "go" on the applications processing as well as a copy of the application herewith.

Thanks Col. for the info. Look forward to seeing you in San Antonio and San Diego.

TULSA, OK Thanks much Chester Warren for nice contribution to the P.F. Also for the kudos regarding the Post Oflag Item. Even though I'm spending time with it I'm not spending enough and hope to spend more in the Great year of '88. Glad your going to make S. A. in October

N. PORT RICHY, FL Thanks Bill Shular it is a real pleasure to welcome Dallas ^{SMITH} back on our mailing list. Somehow, we had his address as 1009 instead of 1008 so his mail didn't get delivered. Glad to have you back Dallas.

Hope you can join us in San Antonio on Oct 6, 7, 8, 9 at the Hilton Hotel. Welcome back

REST ACRES, SC Bill Shular also advised that
 R. Drewry passed away 11/19/87. He served with
 168 Inf of the 34th Div. He is survived by his
 wife Juanita, a son & 3 daughters, a sister and 8
 grandchildren.

His address was
 227 W. Woodward
 Houston, TX 75020
 Related sympathy is with the remaining family.
 Thanks Bill Shular for this info.

ORPUS CHRISTI, TX Back in January Len Vaden
 sent me a clipping from the Army Times regarding
 the status of the Red Tape on the P.O.W. Medal. He
 most recently sent me a blank copy of the application
 for the medal.

Just keep in mind that if you want one you have to
 initiate the action. The related Service will not
 do it for you. As noted elsewhere, an application is
 being included with this mailing of the ITEM. Thanks
 to Len as well as the others who are keeping me
 on my toes on the P.O.W. Medal.

BANGOR, ME Nice long letter from Milt Jellison
 about the book I sent him on Banking which is yours
 for keeps, or whatever you would care to do with it.
 Reunions question you raised has been answered
 elsewhere and in a special memo. Should have booklets
 soon. Hope your doing better with Olds by Now, Are
 we going to see it at S. A. or do you plan to fly?
 Nice to hear from you.

GREENE, N.Y. Nice to hear from Newton Boyce, P.O.W.
 #126. I almost thought his card had come from Oflag
 64 with all the German phrases on it. Thanks for the
 memories Newt.

Your sure got around Germany from Sfax (Shot
 down); to Tunis; Dulag Luft, Frankfurt, Mainz; Oflag
 XX1 1B till April 1943, Then to Stalag Luft 111; Then
 to Moosburg by foot & train until April 25, 1945.

I think you are correct XX1-B & Oflag 64 being
 the same Camp as we opened Oflag 64 in June 6th 1943.

Major now ret full Colonel was transferred to
 our camp from Sagan because they couldn't keep him
 in the Camp at Sagan, as revealed in his book "Sagan".
 I doubt that Jerry had anything to do with the Baum
 Raid. Get his book and you'll see that he took
 off on his own across country after the Raid.

Come join us in S. A. and get your other
 questions answered. Nice to hear from you.

LEXINGTON, KY Thanks Helen Watt for advising me
 of your change of address. Am looking forward to
 seeing you both again in S. A. and glad you enjoyed

Alexandria. It was really great wasn't it!

PROVIDENCE, RI Thanks for the load of stamps.
 With the increase in postage rate, I'm sure the
 USPS will lose more money than ever. Wanna bet!
 Will keep the newsletters going as long as we
 can! This means always until we're all gone.
 That's going to be a long time. Thanks Hyman
 Goodman for keeping in touch.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. What a nice note from Cassie
 Wafal, thanking for the reunion and the news-
 letters. Your more than welcome Cassie and Don
 too, because its always a pleasure to see you
 both as we hope we will in S.A. and West Texas
 Looking forward to it!

LEESBURG, FL Thanks Col Jack Van Vliet for th
 Contribution to the P.F. Writing to Congressme
 is a fruitless effort it seems to me in recent
 years but if more of us did it they might star
 to listen! Will be glad to discuss the item
 you mentioned in your letter but others may
 be of a different opinion than thee & me and
 don't beleive in "stirring up the bees"
 See you in S. A.

Salem, Or. Lloyd Shoemaker writes that his
 book on M-15-X which is about the Services
 dept's effort to supply P.O.W.'s with escape
 material, has been sent to the publisher fo
 the first screening.

Good Luck Floyd! You'll enjoy the 4 pages
 written by Bill Worthen, enclosed with this
 ITEM.

Join us in S.A. if you can! Thanks for the
 contribution and your on the list until you
 say "Quits"

BROCTON, MA Thanks much Chet Russell for you
 fine informative letter. I enjoyed it. Thank
 also for the fine contribution to the P.F.

At the time you wrote Your letter you asked
 about Father Brach's address which I,m sure
 you have the correct one by now. I was
 confused to, but Roy Chappell finally straight-
 ened me out.

I hope you've gotten a letter thru to him by
 now. Thanks much for your kudos on the news-
 letter and I do enjoy doing it.
 See you in S. A.

GULF BREEZE, FL Robert Fleege our retired Dental Surgeon wrote a nice lengthy letter giving me his background as a P.O.W. and how he got there which was finally liberation to the 3rd Div. on the American front line after Hammelburg.

Your recounting of the speech that the late "Pop" Goode made at Hammelburg was correct and almost verbatim as I recall it.

Agreed that your lack of food at Hammelburg was worse than in Oflag 64.

We felt that your problems were due mostly to the abdication of the senior officers from their responsibilities, placing them in the hands of a Captain, who from all indications did not always work in the best interest of all.

"Pop" Goode changed this when he arrived in Camp by carrying out his responsibilities as S.A.O. Thanks much for the informative letter. Be glad to discuss it further in S. A. See you there, I hope.

CLIFTON, CO. Thanks, for the comment on the Video Tapes of the Reunion of 1987.

Both Bill Gray & Bob Eckman, I'm sure ^{THEY} will be pleased that their efforts in our behalf have been enjoyed by others. Three others have requested to see these and #3 is in the works to be shipped. Thanks also for your nice check to help the P.F. Glad to hear we can look forward to seeing you in S. A.

WILLOW STREET, PA Thanks George Herr for letting me know your change of address.

The change has been made on our mailing list and we are looking forward to seeing you in S. A. Hope you are enjoying your new surroundings.

JEFFERSON, IA Real nice to hear from Lew Wilcox. As you read previously herein the circumstance around which we were able to add Johnny Sims' address. Thanks much to you for your nice contribution to the P.F. Hope you continue to play tennis & golf real well but please don't be too energetic and overdo it. Looking forward to seeing you in S. A., Lew Wilcox

This closes this edition with the next one is being started right away as it looks as if May will be a busy month.

Should have more info on S.A. by the next letter. I get little rumors of another "Great Show" due in S. A. Be there! October 6, 7, 8, 9, 1988

Where To Write ^{FOR} P.O.W. ^{MEDAL}

Application forms for the new Prisoner of War Medal are available from several sources, the Defense Department announced. The military services have them, as do veterans' organizations and other public service agencies.

A toll-free number, (800) 873-3768, has been established to take requests for application forms and provide information via a tape-recorded message.

Written requests should be addressed to:

■ Former Army POWs — U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5200.

■ Former Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard POWs — U.S. Navy Liaison Office, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5199.

■ Former Air Force POWs, including Army Air Corps — Air Force Reference Branch, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5199.

'We Fought Without Arms'

William Chuber, 67, of Statesville was captured in January 1944 in Cassino, Italy, and held in three camps and a forestry commando. His last camp was Luckenwalde, about 14 miles south of Berlin. The Russians liberated the camp on his birthday, April 30, 1945. He came home in June 1945. He talked this week about his war experiences, his return home and his feelings about the new Prisoner of War Medal with Observer staff writer Claudia Allen Lowe.

Sunday is my day. I went into combat on Sunday. I was wounded and captured on Sunday. And I was liberated on Sunday by the Russians.



Chuber

I was with the 34th infantry. I had just been promoted to scout. I was a rifleman on patrol. We had fought from Naples to Cassino, Italy. I patrolled in Cassino for a good week.

We walked into the middle of a horseshoe trap of 400 Germans. There was ground fire from a machine gun on the left. I got hit with shrapnel. Some of my teeth were knocked out and my left arm was bleeding. The other man was killed. I lay there from 12 until 5:30 p.m. trying to get back to my lines. You don't run in the middle of daylight in an open field. I was frightened. I was cold. There was snow and ice on the ground and we had gone through ice water up to our necks to get there.

I was caught by a German patrol. I was laying there bleeding. The Germans patched me up.

I was a POW for 1½ years.

They marched me all around Italy, from Cassino up to Florence. I was beaten over the back with rifle butts. One guard in front, one in back. They pushed me: "Los! Los!" (meaning move)

Once, we were strafed (raked by gunfire) by an American fighter plane. I ran out in the field and threw my helmet down and waved my arms. He spotted me because my uniform was more brown than the German uniforms. He came down and signaled me with his wing. He didn't strafe us anymore.

Another time, officers and non-coms could volunteer on a farm or in forestry. I did that. And we went out

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and set a delayed fire in the forest. We had to go back and fight it for three days and nights, but we destroyed a lot of timber.

We were liberated on Sunday morning. I am a Catholic, so I was at mass. It was my birthday. And the priest said the Russians were outside the gates, the good Lord will understand if we cut mass short.

When you are locked up in a prison like that, the first thing you think of is getting home to family, mother, father, sister.

That's what we did. We went out without even good physicals. We went home and raised our families.

We didn't talk about it because

our families didn't understand it. People didn't understand.

Like starvation. People have been hungry. But have you ever woken up in the night chewing on your bleeding fingers because you are hungry?

It seems like all the world acted surprised that POWs were tortured. We've been fighting for that recognition for over 40-some-odd years. It's just since the last 10 years that we began to get recognition and anyone realized what we went through.

I have the Bronze Star (for fighting in a major battle) and two Purple Hearts (for being wounded), the Good Conduct Medal (for staying out of trouble), (and ribbons from) the Mediterra-

nean theater and European theater. Now (I'm getting) the POW medal.

It means we have finally been recognized, that we fought without arms. We still did things to stir up the enemy.

There's no shame in being a POW under those circumstances or any other circumstances.

But it took many years to recognize.

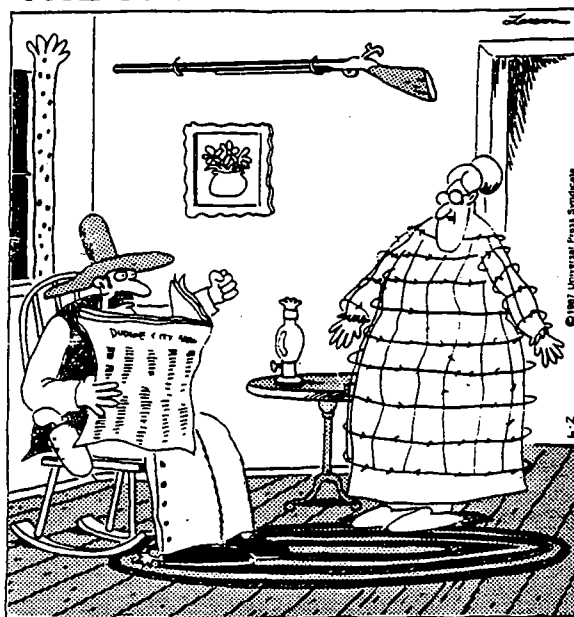
We started having physical breakdowns; we didn't know what was going on. And it seemed like

when we reached about 62 to 65, we would break down faster.

Then the government called us in for exams and put it all on a computer and it followed a pattern. There were a lot of post-traumatic problems from the starvation and confinement. We've had quite a mortality rate.

We can have medals sent to us individually or can take them as a group. If my son were here I'd want him to pin it on me. He's Capt. David Charles Chuber. He's in Korea, in intelligence.

THE FAR SIDE



"Do I like it? Do I like it? ... Dang it, Thelma, you know my feelings on barbed wire."

The purpose of this list is to try to LOCATE members of our group who have been on our LIST or may have been mentioned in correspondence. LOOK IT OVER carefully and then try to locate someone you remembered or lives nearby. Do it by phone or town records or any other neat way that you may know. The list is getting longer please help to reduce it. Thanks

YOUR EDITOR

NEED NEW ADDRESS

George Maibach
49 Melrose St Unit 2D
Melrose, MA 02176

Tom McHale
13612 Midway Ste 520
Dallas, TX 75240

Joseph R. Green
2406 S. Kapoo
Springfield, MI 68504

James M. Gillersie
Wilmatic, CT 06226

Lt. Edward Baker
549 Hellman St
Phila., PA

Thomas Rush

Red Welgang

Ernest M. Gruenberg, M.D.
722 W. 168th St
New York, NY 10032

Lt. John C. Crown
Lt. Edward B. Haney

Lt. R. R. Anderson
1604 Parker St
Amarillo, TX 79210

Edward Berlinski
47 Williamson Ave
Bloomfield, NJ 08003

Fred Sommers
115 Wroe Ave
Dayton, OH

Clifford G. McKeon
7 Summer Rd
Cambridge, MD

Dwayne Reed

Edor Nelson
544 26th Ave So.
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Capt John S. Rodda
1526 N. E. 24th St

Portland, OR 97232 RET

NEED NEW ADDRESS

1st Lt. Robert E. Davis
810 Michigan Ave
Urbano, IL 61801

Capt Henry Crellin
640 East Grand
Springfield, OH 45044

Lt. Charles E. Burns
42 Superior Rd
Bellerose, LI N.Y. 11426

Lt. Aramando Arias
P.O. Box 417
Nogles, AZ

Louis H. Tankin, M.D.
Park Tower East
711 Park Heights Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215

Jack A. Pontilitz
1730 Lyman Pl. N.E.
Washington, DC
OR
2115 Bennarrwiet Ave
Rockford, IL

J. O'Neil
26044 Dundee
Royal Oaks, MI

Lt. Chas J. Batten
USA RET
23340 Koths St
Inkster, MI 48141

Lt. T. Holland
737 Hall Ave
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Lt. J.M. Lloyd
934 W. Main St
Norristown, PA

Capt John R. Martin
Hotel Eagle 9
(no such hotel)
Eagle, Pass, Tx

Lt. Paul C. Wiley
29 Federal St
So. Portland, ME

Lt. Robert M. O'Neil
290 Washington Ave
Santa Monica, CA

NEED NEW ADDRESS

Mr. Charles A. Free
3330 Orange St #19
Coronada, CA 92118

William F. Farrell
Viid Green
7300 20th St Lot 47
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Gus Ferris

Bob Wernette

Al Bonney

Paul W. Johnston
3304 148th SW H-10
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Arthur Mallory, Jr.
29 LaFayette Sq.
LaGrange, GA 30204

Mason Helmer
R. H. Wise
Vernon Burlingame

Paul Miller
1729 K. St
Lincoln, Neb

Harvey A. Todd
1057 S 21st
Decatur, IL

Ralph R. Gann
Box 390 R1
Pearse Rd
Schnectady, NY

Capt Henry G. Shulte
4012 40th Ave S.W
Seattle, 6 WA

Patrick Ward

Bruce Nunnally

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NEW ADDRESS

Marion A. Parrot
Vernon Park Mall 822B
Kinston, N.C. 28501

Gordon C. Berg
1324 Glades Dr.
Altoona, WI 57420

Col Jerry Sage(USAF-RER)
400 Lakeshore Rd.
Enterprise, AL 36330

Robert M. Watt
1134-C Turkey Rd.
Lexington, KY 40502

George L. Herr
300 Willow Valley Lakes Dr
Apt-E320
Willow Street, PA 17584

NEW NAMES ON MAILING LIST

John Sims
P.O. Box 1560
Easley, SC 29641

Dallas Smith
1008 Paradise Dr
N. Port Richey, FL 33552

Robert E. Rutt
937 Lampwick Ct
Bloomfield Hills, MI 4801

Henry H. McKee
414 Space Way
San Antonio, TX 78239

Dear John. The letter is self explanatory, but I hope it will not be of interest, but thought the experience in Lobsens might bring back memories and maybe a plaque would be an appropriate gift to that Polish Town. Always look forward to your letters.

GEORGIA PECAN AUCTIONS

"Division of Warthen, Inc."

Bill Warthen

W. D. WARTHEN, General Manager.

PHONES: DAY 912-537-4383.

NIGHT 912-537-4430

VIDALIA, GEORGIA 30474

April 9, 1968

Mr. Clarence H. Meltesen
810 Gonzales Drive 4-D
San Francisco, Cal. 94132

Dear Mr. Maltessen;

I received "Road to Liberation" last Fall and enjoyed it so much I had every intention of congratulating you before now. This week I've reached semi-retirement and this is one of my first "Put-Off" accomplishments. It made great reading and I've alerted several Kregie friends who have also enjoyed it.

I had renewed my acquaintance with Victor Kanners in Miami Oflag 64 reunion and he was kind enough to send me his log of our adventures from Poland to Mooseburg back in 1984. We met again in 86 at Orlando and have corresponded a few times since, so his contributions to "Roads" were particularly enjoyed. Mac Baldwin, another contributor had sent me his log recently. I knew him well while marching from Nurnburg and hope to visit him in Stark, Fla. some day.

Obviously you were very interested in that experience and I hope you haven't grown tired of it as I would like to recall some things that may be of interest to you, and I also have some serious questions for which I've sought answers at the two reunions I've attended.

On page 26 you mention our stay in Charlottenburg and that a prisoner reported having his Red Cross parcel stolen. I was that Kregie. I had hidden my parcel in a reaping binder under a farm shelter so I could move and trade faster with the natives seeking cigarettes and D bars. Later that night I returned and found my box stolen. It was the bitterest moment of my entire P.W. experience. I had a partner, John Sandford, with whom I was sharing. I had to return to tell him our full parcel was gone and all we had left was the remnants of his coffee can. We had given our third partner, Jock Sutherland, who had taken off in Echfield that afternoon, a good portion of what the three of us were sharing. This partner, John Sandford, never once criticized me or failed to share the little bit of his remaining parcel. I have not been able to find him since we left Mooseburg, but knowing the starvation we were experiencing it was a tremendous sacrifice. How I'd like to thank him"

A funny memory occurred the next morning in Lobsens, which you so well described on page 26. While halted in the middle of Lobsens's streets some member of our platoon saw an old man walking on the sidewalk with two loaves of bread. We were all screaming, "Cigaretten for Bread" but it is astute Kregie noticed the old man's torn clothes and stepped out of a line with a unique proposition. He gestured that he would swap his pants for the two loaves of bread. The old man agreed and our Kregie snatched off his one pair of pants, hobbling on each foot, while all the Poles and Kregies laughed at him dancing in his long handles. Then standing there in the very cold icy street, he proceeded to auction off one half of a loaf of bread for one pair of pants, then another half for another pair, winding up with one more pair than he began with plus one loaf of bread. It made those of us wearing two pairs of pants feel pretty dumb.

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All of this happened in seconds. As clever a trader as he was he must be a multimillionaire by now. I wonder who he was?

Another member of our platoon dashed down a side street and up some outside stairs, hoping for a trade or handout of food. He knocked on the upstairs door and was told to come in. A Polish housewife was lying under cover in bed and motioned him to get in bed with her. At that moment food was his only interest"

Has anyone of our group ever revisited Lobsens? It was such a memorable hour for all of us, and typical of the feeling the Polish people showed to the American P.W.S. . Maybe a small plaque of remembrance would be a worthwhile gesture from our group to the community of Lobsens.

As I recalled Flatow the Russian Slave Laborer had fled to reach the Russian forces and had been found or recaptured by German Guards. He was brought in stiff on the back of a German truck and laid out on the ground. He was frozen but still alive then, but none of us knew what could be done for him.—I celebrated my 21st birthday in Flatow and stayed up most of the night milking the cows, and also I found jars of pickles in the cellar of the huge mainhouse.

Seigelkow, now part of East Germany, is another community I've always wanted to revisit. You recall we spent several days there and the people were most kind to us. I can recall being given one or two eggs at several houses, and allowed in their homes to warm and talk. I met one W.W. I Soldier who told me about being a P.W. in England in 1917-1918. He was particularly helpful. The hausfrau at the particular barnyard in which we were quartered continually fixed us hotwater and shared some of what she had, while we were continually tracking in her kitchen and using her front yard and fence as our latrine. I was always faced with the dilemma as to whether it was more polite to turn my rear end to the street and sidewalk or face the street and bare my fanny to the house and the lady cooking in the kitchen.

Do you recall how completely we were searched (stripped and mouth and cheeks spread) when we reached Hammelburg. All of us presumed our radio would be discovered and there would be no more "Bird". I learned after the war from Lt. Jim McKay, Macon that some member of the security staff had faked a broken arm while waiting in Seigelkow and the radio transmitter had been concealed in the cast. Jim, and others, I suppose, involved in security, radio work and in writing of coded letters from Oflag 64 received Bronze Stars for their intelligence work at Oflag 64. Jim was wounded seriously in the heavy bombing later on the outskirts of Hammelburg.

Now for the more serious remembrance. On the day of liberation at Hammelburg I, and my partner Sandford were some of the first to reach the tank and halftrack column at the bottom of the hill. We got into the lead halftrack and found a wounded German Sgt. who spoke a little English. He was bleeding from a thigh wound and in severe pain, but the leg was bandaged. He told us he was a German General Officer's batman and this General upon being captured and interrogated told his questioners that Hammelburg had received the Oflag 64 P.W.s and had volunteered this Sgt. to lead the column in this raid. As I recall it the German Gen. knew about Col Waters being in the camp. Of this I am not positive.

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We moved with the column until the lead tank just ahead was knocked out then backtracked and made the 'wagon circle' defence in the little valley. I recall there was a barn where Col. Waters and other wounded were brought, and on the ground outside the barn this German Sgt. was asking us to shoot him for fear of being found by the Germans. I left him there when we assembled to hear Col. Goode tell us we could either stay and fight with the Tankers, strike off towards the front lines, or return with him and other staff members to the Hammelburg Camp. There were a few members of the Kregies who chose to stay and join the tank group, who were out of gas, ammunition, and were falling asleep while driving because of the exhaustion from the two days fighting trying to reach the camp.

Among those few who stayed was a young black lieutenant. The only Black officer I can recall in Hammelburg. I had known him slightly but don't remember his name or where he was from. He stayed with the Tankers, and I heard he was either killed or lost a leg. I've never found anyone who remembered, but it was a heroic for these men to make.

Nor have I ever found any reference to this German Sgt. in any of the articles or books about the Raid. Nor did Gen. Waters know of this or recall seeing the German in the Hammelburg Hospital, but of course he was unconscious much of this time. I've always wanted to find someone else who shares these particular memories.

I was among the group who returned with Pop Goode to the camp and had a funny experience the next night. After we boarded the box cars in Hammelburg it was late in the afternoon and everyone was so depressed and exhausted we were almost zombies. Col. Goods and possibly Col. Gouler were in our car and all of us evidently fell asleep immediately. Late in the night while we were moving, feeling very sorry for ourselves, and quite crowded, a young Lieutenant started bitching and cursing the lack of leadership and the fact no one had seen fit to take charge and organize our box car. He was mad as Hell and didn't know Pop Goode was in the car with him. We who knew, were horrified, and just wished the fellow would shut up. After he did, there was a long silence, then Col. Goode said, "Lt., you are absolutely right, I have been so depressed and exhausted I have failed in my duty. I am appointing you the Quartering Officer for this box car and I will give you 5 minutes to come up with rules and plan for make this a military organization. The embarrassed Officer gulped, thought a few minutes, then in a very military manner gave as good a military quartering order as I've ever heard. All of us were charmed by the moment.

Jack Hemingway, Ernest's oldest Son, was in our box car. He was only 20, and after coaxing entertained us with stories about his Dad. His two daughters, who are actresses, look exactly like Jack did at that age.

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Another funny memory of that three day trip was that we had noticed how gentle the train was being handled. (I guess all of us had become connoisseurs of German rail transportation.) The next morning we went up to the Engine to get some hot water from the steam tank and the engineer stepped down from the train and removed cap and goggles. Our engineer was an attractive 20 year old German brunette who told us she had been railroading only 6 months. Five or Six of us about her age gathered around and enjoyed teasing and questioning her, and she seemed to relish the attention.

I recall the tent city camp in Furburg and the well organized handling of the influx of prisoners. It seems a British Major who had been captured in a raid on Norway was in charge. We were told we must turn in all food by 12:00 A.M. the night of our arrival and it was to be consolidated and used in the common mess. We had the privilege (if we had any food) to eat what we wanted until 12:00. My partner and friends had nothing and were extremely hungry, but there were two doctors in our tent who had grabbed a whole 10 in 1 ration off one of the halftracks and would not share the night of the road or in the tent that night. They bashed in front of us, talking about how good it was and stuffing until one vomited. Then about 11:30 two young Japanese Medical Administrative Officers from the 100th Nisei Battalion came in with a huge pot of stew and passed it around to all of us who were so hungry and angry at the two doctors. I can still sense the satisfaction we experienced as these two Japanese made those two men look like the scoundrels they were.

Why so few of us wrote our daily experiences down, and failed to get names and addresses of the friends who were having these unique experiences I do not know. For 40 years I've searched for John Sandford also a Capt. Weimer who gave me four new Gillette razor blades.

It's been a treat to write these 'recalls' and thanks again for the very fine book you prepared for all of us.

Yours very truly,

W.D. Warthen
Wm. D. Warthen
P.O. Box 1
Vidalia, Ga.

c.c. ✓ John R. Sutherland
✓ Jim McKay
Rod Peeples
Mac Baldwin
✓ Victor Hanners
Jay Drake

Those of us who stayed with the column must have wished a thousand times we'd disappeared at Eichfield, so learning the experiences of those who did drop out made your book even more interesting.