



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

VOLUME # XXV # 3 POST OFLAG 64 ITEM JUNE 1988

GLADWYNE, PA Not much doing here. Just returned from a very lovely week riding M/V New Orleans from New Orleans to Memphis. Found out a lot about "Ole Muddy Miss" as well as the various towns of Baton Rouge, Natchez Vicksburg and Memphis. Also learned a lot about the War Between the States. All in all, a great week.

Hope you all are having a great summer so far. While in Baton Rouge both Mary and I had the real pleasure of meeting with Gordon Smith. Had a real taste of Cajun shrimp as well as a fine seafood dinner with Gordon. Of course some wonderful conversation with Gordon about Kriegie days. Great to meet with you Gordon.

Also enjoyed chatting on the phone with Charles Hughes of Memphis. He hopes to get to San Antonio in the Fall.

Just noticed that Bob Bonomi lives in Memphis but unfortunately I missed listing his name on my special list so didn't try to reach him. Have to make it next time. Sorry Bob!

TAMPA, FL Paul La Chance had the same problem with the wrong address of Father Brach's as others previously did. Hope you are all squared away by now. Look forward to seeing you in San Antonio Paul.

WINNENNA, VA Thanks to the "eagle eye" of George Muskalian we can drop another name from our NEW ADDRESS LIST.

George reminded me that William Farrell had passed away the year after the Miami Reunion in 1982.

Thanks George. See you in San Antonio if not before.

FOREST ACRES, S.C. Always a real pleasure to hear from Bill Shular. It usually means additions to our mailing list which suits me fine. This time its five names to be added out of seven listed. Hope we can see all of you at San Antonio. Maybe Charles Howell from Bloomfield N.J. can motivate Eddie Berlinko to join us in San Antonio. I know that Roy Chappell will make use of Morris Thompson Dallas, Texas in helping with the get-to-gether in San Antonio. Clifford Hicks of Arizona & Ernest Lalis of Ventura CA should have no trouble joining us in San Antonio. Welcome to each of you. Join Us.

SUN VALLEY, CA What a nice letter from Mary R. Rappeleye advising me that Dwight Rappeleye passed away in June 1983.

Thanks much for the letter and I'm sorry Dwight didn't make it to Las Vegas in the Fall of 84. It was interesting to notice that you enjoyed the book that Clarence Meltesen had gotten to-gether on the MARCH out of '64. He did a really great job! I definitely see no reason why we can't keep your name on the list. We have several widows on the list and so sincerely as possible welcome you to attend our reunions. We will all welcome you but the other gals especially. Please come to San Antonio. Definitely plan on San Diego in Oct. 1989. Thanks much for your nice contribution to the Postage Fund. Look forward to meeting you in the near future.

SUTLER, CA Austin Webb let me know that he has changed his address which I appreciate and I hope he does too. Hope you can still make it to San Antonio.

CHEYENNE, WY Bill Korber requested the Video Tapes of the reunion and thoroughly enjoyed both tapes. Indicated it was about a 3 1/2 hour show. Anyone else desiring to see them just let me know and I'll get them to you. Just one person on the list now. Thanks for the excess postage going to the P.F. Bill. See you in S.A.

JACKSON, MS Gee, I'm sorry I didn't realize Joe Ainsworth that I wasn't far from you when I stopped in Vicksburg. I would have called you and hope you would be home. Sorry, you had such a problem with Father Brach's phone No. and address. Hope you are all squared away now. Hope to see you in S.A.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX Len Vaden & Pat Burnell of U S S A inform me that there are still some vacancies on the Past Reunion. Bus tour to the Wild Country of West Texas. This part of our Reunion is always a good relaxing and enjoyable time for the few that go. Come join us! Call Patricia Burnell at U S A A and make your reservations direct. 1-800-531-7245 Ask for Pat.

ENTERPRISE, AL. This letter one knows comes from one who is an excellent typist, and a writer. Lots of info and quite a variety. Clayton Metcalf also included a nice contribution for the P.F. He has been continuing his work in the local Historical & Geneological Society including the offices of President & Editor of their magazine. He also writes a column for the local paper entitled Keth & Ken. All of the above in addition being involved with the local P.O.W. Chapter. He is now thinking of a history of his old division, the 35th. Good Luck & also Good Health, Clayton. He also has become a real Grandfather with the 1st Grandson in the Metcalf clan. I know what its like Clayt with only one grandchild and a grandson at that. You better not spoil him. You should make the reunion in S. A. We would be open to suggestion of having a reunion in the South East. Shoot for 1991. We are pretty well booked up til then. LOOK FOR YOU IN S.A.

MC CLURE, OH Somehow we got Lloyd E. Kane on our mailing list. He was a P.O.W. but was in Camp in Shuman, Bulgaria. He was located here after the first air raids the Plouti Oil Fields. It doesn't sound as if he had much fun!

Stockholm Sweden Two brief notes from Henry Soederberg. Always nice to have Henry visit here in the States and interesting to get his reaction to top news items of the day. That get mentioned in personal correspondence or unfinished discussion. Both he and Claire send their best to each and every one. Look forward to seeing or hearing from you on your next stop or in San Antonio.

POTOMAC, MD A brief note back in March from General Waters desiring certain information. Have seen him since May and he looks great as always.

MIAMI BEACH, FL Well, it was a real surprise to get a nice phone call from our Miami Chairman Sydney Thal. He just wanted to give me his change of address which has been duly recorded. Thanks Syd, indeed nice to chat with you on that call. Look forward to seeing you in S.A. Don't forget we have nice quarters here anytime you want a place to lay your head in Philly. The price is right too.

Continued good health, General, and looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio. Also best to his good wife Anne who feeds him well and keeps him in good health.

LAS VEGAS, NV Nice letter from Alan Dunbar adding two names to the mailing list. It's nice to write about two General Reunion Chairmen in the same letter. Our Las Vegas Chairmen and his lovely wife Lilo always have Oflag 64 at the forefront of their activities. Look forward to seeing you in S.A.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA Thanks much Harvey Patterson for calling to my attention that you are receiving 2 letters on each mailing of the Post Oflag Item. Any chance to save postage is great for me & P.F. Thanks so much and hope to see you in S.A.

WILLMAN, WA Leo Bustad always has something interesting to include in his letters to me. This time it was a copy of a letter sent home by WWII G.I. It told about Leo's liberation along with 30 other P.O.W. The writer of the letter had talked to Bob Rankin also. This was a very interesting letter with some unusual remarks about the P.O.W's & their reaction to observing the liberation.
Thanks Leo for sharing this letter with us. Pls come S. A., Its been too long without seeing you.

WASHINGTON, D.C. As a final result of all the Washington Kommittees efforts it was very gratifying to give a real boost to the POSTAGE FUND by receiving a check from that group of \$2000.00. Most of this was a result of the fine planning of the part of the Kommittee and also the astute financial handling of the part of Financial sub-kommittee headed by Jerry Moher.
Thank you Washington Kommittee for not only operating one of the finest Reunions in recent memory but also a very fine financial one.
Look forward to seeing you all in Oct at San Antonio. Thanks Jerry for the check & report.

JAYTONA BEACH, FL A real long letter from General Chairman Dick Meskill of Orlando Reunion came Remember, that one, Guys! Great time! He's been, as he puts it, in the hands of the Lord for a couple of months but is pleased to report great progress. Might be able to get-to-gether with him when he comes North in August. Hope so.
I didn't write about it before, I'll mention it again but it came out in the course of a discussion at Dick's table that our own General John K. Waters the ranking officer in the U.S. Army. Quite an honor and were glad to have him share that honor with us.
Dick, also had as his roommate in the Hospital Dr. Richard Barks who was in our Camp for a brief stay but was transferred to a "Luft" Camp where he was killed.
Thanks Dick for all the news.

Columbia, S.C. Real nice of Don Gravel to send me newspaper picture of Wright Bryan attending the Furman University centennial celebration. Unfortunately its not good for reproduction. However, we all know what wright looks like, still very good looking guy. It will be great to see you in San Antonio.
and thanks for the clipping.

San Antonio, TX Quite some time ago but a very timely letter from Frances R. Atem. She got me squared away on the exact location of Father Brach even though Roy Chappell had written me of his address. The only difference was that I wasn't on the same wavelength as Roy. Thanks Frances and I'm sure we'll see you in your home town in October- Looking forward to it.

KAUFMAN, TX There's only one family that would live in Kaufman, TX and that's Roy & Helen Chappell. Heck their family makes up half the population anyway. He is congratulated on his follow-up on keeping all of us posted on the status of Father Brach.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to seeing Father Broch when we arrive in San Antonio. Its going to be a great time.
Thanks Roy & Helen, we really appreciate your extra efforts.
See you in San Antonio

BISHOP, CA A real short note from Higgle, the violin maker. Sent me a copy of a news-letter that was issued on board ship as he returned to the States. Very interesting Thanks Higgle and also thanks for your contribution to the P.F. With the increase in postage by the USP.S It doesn't take long to "blow a bundle " on a mailing.
May we expect to see you in S.A. in Oct.

NORTHWOOD, IA Great to hear from Charlie Jones writing me in March from the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. He was there for a hip replacement surgery job and had nothing but praise for the work done by the V.A. and their care for the "old soldier as he put it.
He also saw Eddie sager who volunteers two days/ week at the Center.
In addition Don Frederick whose mail has not been returned, has been on our mailing list for quite some time. Apparently was not getting his mail. Thanks Charlie for sending me his new address.
I sure hope your hip is in good shape by now Charlie.
See you in San Antonio

NTGOMERY, AL Ted Rinehart wrote that he was able to attend the funeral of Col Jim Thelma Dew. He also said that Lynn Hansaker was there representing the 1st Ranger Battalion. Ed Patterson also wanted to make it but had to be in Mississippi. Ed indicated the service was short and dignified with full military honors, including horse drawn caisson, saddled mount with revised boot a platoon of honor guard and military band both from the 1st Guard. Ed & Lynn both sat with Son Howard & Wife in the church. there were flowers from the 1st Ranger Battalion as well as personal message from General Bruno, Army Chief of Staff. Ted Rinehart said his epitaph would have been, We still need soldiers like Col. James R. Dew. Thanks Ted for this nice report as well as the contribution for the P.F. See you in San Antonio

SEATTLE, WA Well at least we are able to reduce the need new address list by one. Cap't Henry Shulte wrote that he is the same individual that I had on the "need new address" list as well as the regular mailing list. Great you raised the name of Dr. Fleege and his address which I would be glad to send to you but the last mailing I made the letter was returned as not being forwardable. To date I have not heard from him. As soon as I learn of his address I'll forward it to you so you can correspond with him. I would definitely be interested to add to my files the list of Major Robert C. Christensen. I will try to ascertain its purpose unless you know of its true purpose. Appreciate this very much.

The cartoon I published in the recent newsletter, "The Other Side" was created by Gary Larson who is a next door neighbor to Hank. I plan to discuss this barbed wire cartoon with him at a future date. And now many thanks Hank not only for the Kudos which you included at the end of the letter but also for your fine contribution to the P.F. It would be great to see you in San Antonio!

DELRAY BEACH, FL Alex Ross has joined the "retired" group and moved to Florida. He is there by now. Hope you are beginning to enjoy your new surroundings, Al. Being so close hope to see you in San Antonio. Thanks for advising me of the new address.

HOT SPRINGS, CA Here's another change of address, by Col. Robertson. Moving from State of Washington to California. Thanks to you Col "Robbie" for the info. Now that your a little closer maybe we can see you in San Antonio also.

EASLEY, S.C. Well, what a time! Had a nice note from "Cheerful" Charlie Cheatam who gave me the address of Johnny Sims. I sent out the first mailing and the P.O. returns the letter. Only one thing to do. Check the address, Address was correct and I still don't know why the letter was returned to me. Address was correct. Johnny. I hope you can make the reunion. Thanks Charlie for the fine contribution.

DAYTONA BEACH, FL Very interesting letter from Dick Meskill who advised me that he had planned to do some traveling to N.Y. Cape Cod and N.J. as well as N.C. He also wrote to Bill Worthen clarifying some points raised in Worthen's letter which included in the last newsletter. Thanks, Dick for the info.

CLARINDA, IA Certainly nice of Larry Higgins to send me 12 copies of a group photograph taken of the repatriation group that was taken in Annaberg, Germany in January 1945. This group photo shows Frank Maxwell Henry Weintraub Larry Higgins and I think Jim Shooft These are the only four I recognize. Any one interested in a copy of this photograph pls send me 25¢ for postage and I'll get it to by return mail. 1st come 1st serve. If we run out perhaps I can get additional copies from Larry. Larry goes on to say that group crossed from Annaberg to Boul, Switzerland on 17 Jan 1945. Frank Maxwell left the group in Marseilles and fly to Erylard for a G-2 debriefing. Larry also related that he's been traveling from Conn. to IA and in Feb & March he went out to see Jim Sherman in Oakland CA. Boy, I'll bet Sidi Bou said took a beating there. From he went to KAUFFMAN, TX to visit with the Chappell's. He also indicated he has already received his P.O.W. Medal and indicates they are very nice. Thanks Larry for the pertinent info. SEE YOU IN S.A. Thanks Larry also for the nice contribution to the P.F. When will the postage rates stop?

CHARLOTTE, NC Rev. Gene Daniel dropped me a brief letter. I'm glad to keep you on our list and many of us are still around that remember our stay at TX A/Z, the British Camp at Ratenburg on Fielde, your visit to Jacob Grim's School several years ago and discussing the P.O.W. campsite with an English speaking Head master must have been very interesting experience.

I can fully appreciate how seven grandchildren can help you young. Thanks for keeping in touch and also for your contribution to the P.F. Are you going to join us in S.A.

PASO, TX Milt Moore sent me a short note that he would not be able to join us in San Antonio. I'm sorry to hear that Milt but hope that you'll keep us in mind and if things change at the last minute, join us.

INTERVILLE, OH Robert Wenger writes that all is well with his family. I also sent me the name & address of J. Ferris 505 S. E. 4th Place Cape Coral, FL 33904 Thanks Bob for adding Gus' name to the list as well as the contribution to the P.F. Hope to see you in San Antonio.

Y TOWN, AL Jim Denman writes that he's going to the American Ex P.O.W. Convention in Las Vegas, then come on down to San Antonio. Great! Jim. I look forward to seeing you. Thanks also for the nice contribution to the P.F. I like your Patriotic stationery ***

FRANCISCO, CA Always good to hear from Clarence Miltesen. His book, which if you haven't gotten a copy, you should. It's easier to hand a friend a copy (\$15.00) than try to explain how the various group arrived at so many different camps. Clarence also told me he received an order from a library that should prove to be good reading to the younger generations.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio. Enclosed are the two questionnaires he sends out with the sale of each book to try to make the book more accurate in all aspects as well as to authenticate any new aspects not covered in the book. Maybe there will prompt you to fill out these forms regarding your experience and send them to: Clarence Miltesen 810 Gonzaleg Dr, 4-D San Francisco, CA 94132

SCOTIA, NY Another change of address. This one from Newton Cole. Coming back to enjoy New York winters so as to be closer to his family. Thanks also Newt for the nice contribution to the P.F. I have a good friend in Walton, N.Y. which is not far from Scotia. Lookforward to seeing you in San Antonio.

EAST GREENVILLE, TX What a nice note of regret on the part of the Weinbergs of Stalog Luft III. Living just a short distance from San Antonio, they were all set to join our reunion for for a first. Then on the same week-end, Bob's Bombardier Group decides to have their Reunion, Were sorry to hear this unfortunate news but know that Bob will have a good time where he will be going. Thanks for the letter.

PINEHURST, NC " Doc" Herb Garris sent me the article about the reaction of two P.O.W.'s to the P.O.W. medal & their experiences. One was published last time and I'll try to get the other published this time. Always great to hear from "Doc" as he usually asks a good question. Isn't it ironic how public opinion and Congress took so long to come to such a position (to create the P.O.W. Medal.) Thanks "Doc" for the info.

CHEYENNE, WY Bill Korber wrote to me to let me know he had received the video tapes in great shape. He has since viewed and enjoyed them. An Bill Gray & Bob Eckman know that their efforts are appreciated. Hope you passed your finals at the Community College. Looking forward to seeing you and Ev in San Antonio.

ALEXANDRIA, VA How nice to hear from a fellow who lives in the town where we had our last reunion, Bob Reppa Great place! It brings back fond memories as well as unusual ones where the Fire Marshall wears a side arm. Any way its a great place and the fond memories rule over any other. See you in S.A.?

San Rafael, Ca Matt Smith very kindly sent me the obituary from the West Point Assembly on Co. Herte. Thanks, Matt, for this and I'm sending a copy to Clarence Meltessen as well as Clayton Metcuff in as much as Col. Herte served in the 35th Division. Thanks much for the check to the Postage Fund. Always great to make a deposit to the Fund to keep it liquid in view of rising postage rates. Will sure be glad to see you in San Antonio.

POSTVILLE, IA Hi, Maury Chevalier, nice to hear from you and appreciate the nice contribution to the P.F. As you can see I already received 2 notices about Schute for which I am grateful. Glad you appreciated the article I sent you. Are we going to see you in San Antonio! Tain't far.

PIQUA, OH Not often I hear from Lester Edsall but always nice to hear from you Les. I sure don't know what happened to the content of the envelope that you received. But any way I hope you received the right contents on the re-mailing. Thanks also for the nice contribution to the P.F. Will we see you in San Antonio?

Far Hills, NJ Always nice to hear from Joe Frelinghuys. It was in response to a picture that I clipped from our local papers, historical page that went back to the days of Warren G. Harding and Jos. father who was a political giant in New Jersey politics in days where I was living at the time. Glad you appreciated it, Joe. Hope you can make San Antonio. Thanks much for the contribution to the P.F.

BLADWYNE, PA You all should have received your reservation forms by now preliminary schedule of events for San Antonio. Looks like a great job by the Committee that Al Decil has gotten to-gether. It will be a great "B A S H". See you in San Antonio. Thanks to all the various contributors and a real welcome to all of the following:
1st Lt. Ronald Shultz
Robert W. Kroll
Wilbur Bishop
David Westhelmer
Garland F. Vaughn
M. J. "Marty" Higgins
Charles Howell
Clifford Hicks
Ernest Paul Lolis
Morris Thompson
Hope to have the pleasure of meeting you all in San Antonio.

EDITOR

JOHN F. SLACK

INTERROGATION, PRISONER OF WAR

(Your contribution to a revision of the book)

Name

Rank

Serial Number

Unit and location

Captured _____ 19____

First (Temporary) Camps

Permanent (Oflog, Stalag, Hospital) Camps

Forced Marches

Liberated

When

Where

RAMP Camp/Odessa

This is a continuing project, so long as contributions, records, and memoirs keep increasing the known facts and expanding the reach of the story. Hoping to hear from you. CRM

ROADS TO LIBERATION

For the record, I'd like to know "the road" you took from
Oflag 64:

To Parchim _____
One _____
Two _____
Three _____

To Odessa _____
Col Drury _____
Wegheim Escape _____
Wegheim Medical _____
Wirnitz Escape _____
Echfeld Escape _____
Charlottenburg Escape _____
Lobsens Escape _____
Oflag IID _____

To Luckenwalde _____
Flatow _____
Jastrow _____
Zeitlitz _____
Stolpe/Usedom _____

Hammelburg to Nurnberg _____
Rail #1 _____
Simes Column _____
Rail #2 _____
Juskalian Column _____
Rail #3 _____
Spicher Column _____
Shulte Column _____
(_____) _____

Nurnberg to Moosburg _____
Rail #4 _____
Bloom Column _____

Simes Column to Gars _____

(Other, _____) _____

Date _____

Name _____

THANK YOU. Will Report at San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO, TX Our next General Chairman of our next Reunion in San Antonio has been busy with his committee who to date are:

Albert Cecil, Chairman
Roy Chappell, Registrar
Roger Cannon
Len Vaden

John T. Jones.
Craig Campbell

Teddy Roggen

They have pinned down for our pleasure the Hilton Palacio Del Rio (Palacio Del Rio)

which is in Downtown San Antonio and a most adequate hotel.

The rates in the busiest month of the Tourist season in this fair City are:

Single?Double \$ 80.00

Triple/Quad \$ 80.00

By way of comparison the range of rates go from \$ 105.00 single to \$160 for a Tower suite.

The hotel is near the important tourist points, within walking distance so that at the present time registration fees will probably be on the lower side than in the past.

That's about all the news for the present and look forward to a great to-gether in San Antonio.

OCTOBER 6, 7, 8, 9, 1988

Reservation Cards will be distributed at a later date.

John F. Slack
John F. Slack
Editor