

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.

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM XXVI # 6

DECEMBER, 1989

PAGE ONE

GLADWYNE, PA I hope that you all were as fortunate as I was to have a very pleasant and enjoyable Thanksgiving Day with either family or friends.

It really is a time of year when we should all count our blessings and be thankful for those that we do have.

This is particularly true as we look forward to the great Holidays ahead at the end of this month.

Both Mary and me wish that every one enjoyed a great Thanksgiving, and extend all the blessings of Christmas season ahead.

As we begin the last decade of this century may it be one that we all enjoy good health and start it in a fine way.

All the best laid plans of mice and men go awry. So goes our plans for Atlantic City. When our selected General Chairman learned that many of our group would prefer not to come to Atlantic City because of the lack of extra curricular activity he gave a good search to see what could be done to no avail.

The suggestion was also made to go to New York City but was ruled out as being too expensive.

The next in line was Las Vegas in '91. Again, our former General Chairman and also for the '91 Reunion Alan Dunbar was contacted and has come thru with arrangements being made to hold the Reunion at the New Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas, October 11, 12, 13, 14.

Other plans are being formulated so that you won't have to spend all your time in the Casinos losing your money.

You'll be interested to know that we will be following the 1990 Reunion with either Norfolk in 1991 or Bill Korber's suggestion of having

it in Colorado Springs in 1992 or vice versa.

Of course the final decision will be made in 1990 at Las Vegas.

I sincerely hope that this change meets with your approval.

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SAN DIEGO, CA Well, what a great time we had in this beautiful town and the surrounding country side. It was a wild animal time between the Zoo and the Wild Animal Park but the fact remains that we were together seeing all these things enjoying them as a group so that we each of us have fond memories of our visit to this town. Trip to Tijuana, Sea World.

Harbor Cruise, the dinners at Anthony's, City Tour and more.

The selection of the Motel also helped as it gave a great view of the Harbor and the Naval activity at all times.

Thanks much Tom Drake and Jim Sherman and the families of each for a great time.

Two sidelights. Tom Drake's daughter Shelley who runs her own business took the entire week off and spent it at the reunion helping with the registration desk and helping in other ways to smooth out the arrangements for all and made the week really enjoyable.

Jim's Sherman's son Jeff was also helpful by helping to assemble the registration packets for each registrant.

Every body pitched in and made our week great.

\*\*\*\*\*

Total Attendance 126 with 70 Kriegies and 56 gal's (spouses, daughters or family.)

\*\*\*\*\*

INSTON, N. C. Marion Parrot from whom a letter is  
rarity, dropped me a note telling me that Eddie  
erlinski's new address is:

7 Williamson Road  
loomfield, NJ 07003  
201) 743-7135

and also

Arthur E. Mallory  
38 Cherokee Rd  
a Grange, Ca 30240

Thanks Marion for these changes of address. I  
really appreciate it and you have a great Holiday  
season.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAN DIEGO, CA This bit of info. I picked up at the  
reunion.

In a book with the title, Misadventures of a  
fisherman by Jack Hemingway, a former P.O.W. from  
Ammelburg, Chapter 15 goes into detail about the  
Ammelburg "Raid".  
You fellows who like fishing as well as reading  
reading about your experiences, might want to get  
this at your local library and read Chapter 15, Plus.  
Let me know what it is like, yes!

\*\*\*\*\*

CLEMSON, S. C. How nice of Ellen Bryan to drop me a  
post card and let me know

- J. J. Sims address which switched numbers in the  
.O. Box address.

- Wrights condition which is good all things  
considered.

He has had another slight stroke, Unable to talk,  
but mind is OK. and confined to a nursing home which  
he does not feel is the nicest place to enjoy life.  
Ellen writes that he reads, follows Clemson sports  
and also watches other T V programs.

At this stage he is not doing any writing.  
Thanks Ellen for writing about our favorite War  
correspondent.

\*\*\*\*\*

DES MONIES, IA After Dec 1st Verris Hubbel will  
be moving to his daughter's home in Bowling Green, Ky.  
See complete address at end of letter. This will  
be a center of Hub's family as he has a grand-daughter  
in Nashville Tenn. 2nd Granddaughter in Birmingham, AL.  
So he will be with his family, all fairly close, in  
Bowling Green.

Have a great Holiday "Hub" and hope you can come see  
all of us in Las Vegas.

\*\*\*\*\*

OAKLAND, CA Wow! What a nice letter to receive  
the surplus funds from the San Diego R. Jim Shermans  
letter was superb as well as a nice check for the  
Postage fund of over \$ 2000.00. Superb!

Not only a great meeting but also a great  
contribution to the Postage Fund.

Part of this was the amounts that the following  
contributed to the P.F. when they were rebated  
their unused pre-paid tickets for the Harbor  
Cruise which they were unable to make due to  
the conflict of dates for the Harbor Cruise.

Those that contributed these refunds were:

Lucy & John Shirk  
Belle & Matt Smith  
Len and Faye Vaden  
Barbie & Ted Rinehart  
Betty & Tom Lawson  
Edie & Les Edsall

Thanks, Guys & Dolls.

A very nice gesture!

As to the money being sent to Charlie it was  
already done before your letter came in.

Thanks much for the suggestion.

I just talked to Jim on the phone and he  
indicated that so far no further repercussions  
or after effects of the Quake as far as he is  
concerned.

He wished for me to convey to you many thanks  
all of you who came and also to those of you  
who helped in making the R. the great success  
that it was.

and indeed it was a success even though my  
opinion may be a little biased.

\*\*\*\*\*

BELLAIRE, TX John Stansell wrote just before  
my leaving for San Diego.

What a nice letter! and what a nice story.

While out walking one day John's leg  
collapsed under him, after much testing (4 weeks)  
the VA finally determined that John had bone  
Cancer. After an operation they finally  
immobilized his right leg. inserted some bone  
marrow and in about 18 months his leg should  
be like new.

Great, John. John also got to the Reunion  
even though he was on crutches, and did he  
have a good time!

He stated in his letter that the good times  
started at the Dubuque Reunion and continued  
to the present.

I don't think the San Diego R. Changes his  
opinion any.

Thanks much for the contribution John and  
I look forward to seeing you again in Las Vegas,  
At the Flamingo Hilton. Should be lots of fun!

\*\*\*\*\*

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. As you all know at each  
recent reunion, I have had Nan Mac Arevey give  
a brief report on the gal's reaction to the  
Reunion.

Well I didn't foresee how Nan wouldn't be able to attend one of our get-togethers so I had to make a new selection this year.

Enclosed is Elaine Creech's report which represents the views of not only an outsider but one who has only been to a total of two reunions.

Elaine is of British background but also has a background of being a former Naval Officer.

Thanks Elaine for a nice job and gamely taking on the assignment.

\*\*\*\*\*

FAR HILLS, N.J. Don't know how this was ever overlooked, but thanks, Dick Mc Whorter for your nice contribution and for letting me know your relationship with Roy Marnien.

Roy has been having quite a siege with cancer but he is winning so far. I'm sure he has all intentions of beating it.

Since his wife died about eight or ten years ago he has been living in the Poconos and spending many of his week-ends with his daughter who now lives in New York. Call him if you have his number. If not I'll be glad to let you have it. It is unlisted.

COME OUT TO OUR PARTIES!

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LEAWOOD, KS Bill Reno writes that he is listed twice on our mailing list so pls. remove his name at least once and we'll save postage.

Thanks Bill and will do.

Come to Las Vegas next time.

\*\*\*\*\*

WOODVILLE, TX New address for Dr. Jack Pry 520 FM 256 Woodville, TX 75979. Glad to have you on the list Doc.

\*\*\*\*\*

N. QUINCY, MA As long last a real but rarely seen Margie has responded to my inquiry about George Ribach. George is still fairly well and kicking in the suburb of Boston. Of course this has been George's home town area for many years.

Nice to have you back on the list George and sincerely hope your health is improving and hope you are able to join us at a nice reunion in the near future. We like you and would love to see you again.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUTTER, CA Thanks very much Austin Webb for your nice note and the snapshot of your receiving the P.O.W. Medal. I think it was two years ago that Lt. Buckley joined us at our reunion in Alexandria (Washington), We usually have Joe Barrett, but he missed this year and Joseph O'Leary I do not know. We would indeed welcome both of you.

Hope you can make Vegas. Sure looking forward to seeing you at Las Vegas.

\*\*\*\*\*

LOS ANGELES, CA, In June, David Westheimer was not sure he would be close enough to get to San Diego. but he did.

It is always nice to see you and always feel free to join us. We indeed enjoy your company. Keep well and join us in Las Vegas next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUN CITY, AZ How unfortunate that you were unable to join us in San Diego. Duane Kennedy had an emergency arise that required that he cancel his registration.

Well the next one in Las Vegas certainly will not be far to travel for you to make it next year. Look forward to seeing you.

\*\*\*\*\*

GLADWYNE, PA Just want to mention that a great big THANKS!! is in order for all of you who handed me the greenbacks at San Diego. They have all be dutifully added to the P.F. and are drawing interest already. Your a great group and thanks again.

\*\*\*\*\*

FORT WORTH, TX Ike Franklin was at the reunion and seemed to enjoy himself thoroughly even though he was confined to a wheel chair. His diabetic condition apparently limits his mobility but not his mental or vocal ability. Always good to see you Ike. See you in Las Vegas

\*\*\*\*\*

OWINGS MILL, MD Thanks Doc Francesco for sending the address of Dr. Louis Tankin. He has been among the missing for a long time. Welcome back to the group "Doc" Tankin and look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

\*\*\*\*\*

DES MOINES, IA Sure missed seeing Bob Eckman in San Diego. You would have had a great time, Bob. Thanks much for very fine contribution to the P.F. It really helps to meet the mailing cost whenone of these goes to Press.

Postage alone usually represents about half the cost of mailing. Hope all is well with you, Lillie and We'll look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

\*\*\*\*\*

OAKLAND, CA Boy! it was big lift to the mailing list itself, when Jim Sherman took the job of assisting Tom Drake on the Reunion.

Somehow he not only corrected the spelling on a lot of names but also fortunately eliminated four names of deceased members that I had not been advised were deceased.

These included

BILL EVERETT. EL PASO, TX WHO DIED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT 10/16/88

LOUIS J. HENNIGER OF BEVERLY, OHIO WHO TOOK HIS OWN LIFE 3/9/ 85

JOHN T. MCGUIRE FARMINGDAL, LI N.Y. WHO DIED 7/10/88

FRANK B. NAWLEN DONELSON, TN WHO DIED 5/31/87

Thanks Jim for those corrections to our mailing list.

GREAT JOB!

\*\*\*\*\*

ROCKFORD, IL Thanks Much Bob Ashchim for your great contribution and also an order for the book Raid. It will be going out on Dec.4th. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

Yes, I agree the contribution of the entire Drake family was a real asset to the entire group. It was nice to know that a quasi-outsider to the group could do so much for us. We more than appreciate his contribution of he and his family to our cause. It was really a "highlight" reunion.

The 1990 plans are previous outlined in this letter and will look forward to seeing you there.

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SOUTHYARMOUTH, MA Well, we all that were in S.D. there greeted "Gabe" Gever with great welcomes. How nice it was to see him. Great Guy! loved arguments but disliked no one. A stroke and medication adversely affecting his ulcer caught up to him Wednesday before Thanksgiving. (See Obituary elsewhere.)

We'll all miss Gabe and indeed I'm sure the sympathy of all us go out to his wife, Jean and family.

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AUSTIN, TX A change of address card puts Lloyd C. Warren in Texas from Oklahoma. Thanks much for advising me of this change Lloyd.

\*\*\*\*\*

BELLEROSSE VILLAGE, NY In September Mrs. Glendinning wrote to say she would be unable to join us in San Diego, because she was still teaching. We thank you indeed for the Postage money and sincerely appreciate it. Sorry we have had to cancel the East Coast R. for next year, but still hope you'll be able to join us in Las Vegas.

Hadn't known that John had written any plays but would enjoy learning more about them. Good luck on retrieving them from Jose Ferrar. Hope to see you in Vegas.

\*\*\*\*\*

ENTERPRISE, AL Home of P.O.W. Authors, Clayt Metcalf and Jerry Sage. Clayt writes that he is still working on what he likes to do. Also sent the enclosed articles. He is working on improvement of his health by losing weight. Keep it up Clayt you'll feel much better. Sorry, you are unable to join us at our R. We all have a great time of great Fellowship. Maybe Vegas next year. Thanks much for the nice contribution to the P.F. Stay Well!

\*\*\*\*\*

HUEYTOWN, AL Sorry, won't see you in Atlantic City but hope you can make Vegas, Jim and Elizabeth Denman. You were right it was a great Reunion and I didn't hear any one say they weren't kept busy.

There was so many things to do it was difficult to get them all in. Tom Drake & Jim Sherman and Committie did a great job. Thanks much for the nice gift to the P.F. Hope to see you in Vegas.

\*\*\*\*\*ATLANTA, GA.

ATLANTA, GA Jim & Peggy Bancker were really missed in San Diego. First time we haven't seen them in about 20 years. (time flies) A special family birthday celebration did them in. Well, jim as you have read things have changed and we'll look for you and Peggy in Las Vegas. Thanks much for the nice contribution to the P.F.

\*\*\*\*\*

SWARTHMORE, PA Thanks, Tom Miller for your note and comments regarding Bob Crandall. It was nice of Ted Rinehart to share that info with us. Hope you had a good time at the Ranger Battalion Reunion in Washington.

As you have read by now Atlantic City has been checked off and its going to be Las Vegas in a different Hotel which I believe is a fairly new one, the Hilton Flamingo. See you there if not before.

LONDON, ENGLAND Our good friend Ken Finlayson wrote me a long letter including a note about going up to Scotland for a brief visit and meeting his old Kriegle friends. The course of conversation usually gets to his reunion with Oflag 64 buddies in San Antonio. How nice!

Ken wishes again to thank all of his gentlemen friends in Oflag 64 for being so gracious and friendly to he & his sister when they visited with us at San Antonio.

He especially wants to thank the Cupits for their kindness to them. He also especially remembers Roy and his Stetson as the mark of a real Texan.

He attended the 50th Anniversary of Dunkirk which must have been quite a memorable occasion for him.

Indeed Ken we did have a memorable occasion in San Diego. Most enjoyable, Thanks for writing.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAN ANTONIO & KAUFMAN, TX Again a brief report on Father Brach from "Tex" & Helen Chappell. At the present time it is still cards & messages being the best way to communicate with Father Brock.

Phone conversations are difficult for him. I find the same thing true for my brother who is afflicted with the same disease. He has even passed into a short nap while talking with me. So at this time of year especially flood him with cards of the season or as you wish.

\*\*\*\*\*

STOCKHOLM. WASHINGTON, D.C. The enclosed brochure is just about the fiscal line up for the European trip next year. Looks great! Make your reservations early Remember, that total to go, will be 90 persons, so sign up NOW. First come first to go.

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GLADWYNE, PA Thanks much to each who have taken the time to send me Greetings of the season. Many of them are very poignant and the lump comes to throat for this "ole critter". It's just great to be there with so many friends.

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WORCHESTER, MA Nice little note from Irv Yarnock. Noted that at a recent meeting he sat next to George Patton (The late General Patton's son.)

The conversation touched on Hammelburg and son George's comment was, 'That his father always felt badly about that. He felt that the task force should have larger and he wanted to send a larger task force, but he was not allowed to.'

Irv also included a page from Nov. Ex P.O.W. Bulletin showing a picture of David Glendinning addressing, the joint Canadian meeting of the Ex P.O.W.'S, regarding the POW medal. Thanks Irv for your input.

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GLENWOOD, IA Thanks much to Larry Higgins for the inclusion of the obituary of Kenneth Read. The ranks of the lowans are thinning and this hurts because there were many of them in our group. We extend indeed our sympathy to the entire Read Family.

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HOMEWOOD, IL I don't know how I ever got Bernard Edelman's name on my mailing list but he is a very fine gentleman.

Associated with the 1st Armored Division Assoc. he wrote me a note and included a check, very nice and suggested his name be dropped from my list as he is not an officer. He even said he enjoyed the letters that he had received. Thanks much Bernard, and Holiday Greetings to you and yours. Sincerely appreciate the nice check.

\*\*\*\*\*

GAITHERSBURG, MD Thanks again to Doc Di Frances for the new address of Dr. Ernest Gruenberg. Nice to have him back on the list. See his new address and end of Item. Welcome back

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ENGLAND, ARK Now I'm not sure what Billy Bingha is up to but I received a letter addressed to the Chappells. My heart went out to them because Billy suggested that they may be responsible for adding to food shortages.

Then again he may just have sent me the letter as a copy of one he sent to the Chappells. way I received it as well as the message that Johnny Shinn has been under the weather lately and could use a big card lift. So let's give him one. Johnny Shinn - 1630 Beltline Blvd-Columbia, S.C. 29206 Phone 1-803-787-2778 Hope your feeling better John.

\*\*\*\*\*

LOUISVILLE, KY A Note on a very nice doggie Christmas card from Elizabeth Englehart was very welcome.

I'll send her names of Dick's friends that I know and suggest any special ones write to her at 1400 Willow Ave. Louisville, KY 40204 Good luck! with your new dog Charlie. It is obvious that both you & Dick had a fondness for man's best friend. Have a Nice Christmas in Princeton.

The purpose of this list is to help you find someone you remembered or lives nearby. 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  
James M. Gilliersie  
Milmatic, CT 06226

Lt. Edward Baker  
549 Hellman St  
Phila, PA

Thomas Rush

Red Weigang

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

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

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

Fred Sommers  
115 Wroe St  
Dayton, OH

Clifford G. McKeon  
7 Summer Rd  
Cambridge, MD

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

Cap't John S. Rodda  
1526 N. E. 24th St  
Portland, OR 97232

Cap't Henry Crellin  
640 East Grand  
Springfield, OH 45044

Lt. Charles E. Burn  
42 Superior Rd  
Bellerose, LI NY 11426

Jack A. Pontillitz  
1730 Lyman Pl. N.E.  
Washington, DC

or  
2115 Bennarrwiet Ave  
Rockford, IL

J. O'Neil  
2604 Dundee

NEED NEW ADDRESS  
Lt. Charles J. Batton  
USA RET  
23340 Koths St  
Ihkster, MI 48141

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

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

Cap't John R. Martin  
Hotel Eagle 9  
(no such address)  
Eagle Pass, TX

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

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

Gus Ferris

Bob Wernette

Al Booney

Mason Heimer  
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

John Simms  
P.O. Box 1500  
Easley, SC 2964

Bruce Nunnally

NEW ADDITIONS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS  
James H. Mills  
2078 Connecticut Ave  
N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008

Holmes E. Penn, Jr.  
469 Crescent Dr  
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

Anthony E. Rose  
49 Laurel St  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Lt. James Henderson  
209 N. Scioto St.  
Circleville, OH 43113

Edward T. Berlinski  
47 Williamson Ave  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Dr. Louis Tankin  
4700 Painter Mill Rd  
Owings Mill, MD 21117

NEW ADDITIONS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Arthur E. Mallory  
838 Cherokee Rd  
La Grange, GA 30240

Verris C. Hubbell  
3336 Bow Dr  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Mrs. Newton Cole  
84 St. Stephens Ln. W.  
Schenectady, NY 12302

Dr. Jack S. Pry  
520 FM 256  
Woodville, TX 75979

George Maibach  
49 Tyler St  
N. Quincy, MA 02171  
C/O R. Montgomery

Dr. Ernest M. Gruenberg  
5225 Pooks Hill Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

MR . MRS MAYS W. ANDERSON	714 HOUTZ AVENUE	SPRINGVILLE, UT 84663
MR & MRS R. L. ASCHIM	4558 APPLE ORCHARD LN.	ROCKFORD, IL 61108
JUAN ARIAS	283 WEED AVENUE	STAMFORD, CT 06902
MR & MRS. ROBERT F. BONOMI	3655 HOUGHTON LANE # 1	MEMPHIS, TN 38128
MR & MRS ART W. BRYANT	615 SHADY LANE	LAKELAND, FL 33803
MR & MRS ALBERT N. CECIL	2457 LAKEVIEW CIRCLE	ARLINGTON, TX 76013
MARVIN CHEVALIER	P.O. BOX 627	POTTSVILLE, IA 52162
MR & MRS TONI CIPIANI	103 10th STREET	WELLSBURG, W.V. 26070
BILL COOL	2510 UNICORNIO STREET	CARISBAD, CA 92008
MR & MRS ROGER CANNON	3520 W. BROOKVIEW DR.	WACO, TX 76710
H. A. CASNER	3455 SLADE DRIVE	FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042
MR & MRS ROBERT CHRISTENSEN	5 MARMAC DRIVE	LOVELAND, CO 80537
LEE CLINGAN	121 ELM DRIVE	COVINGTON, IN 47932
MR & MRS ROY J. CHAPPELL	400 S. HOUSTON STREET	KAUFMAN, TX 75142
MR & MRS ROBERT CHRSTENSEN	# 5 MARMAC DRIVE	LOVELAND, CO 80537
MR & MRS ROBERT G. COX	RT 2 BOX 260-189	LEESBURG, FL 32748
MR & MRS JOHN CREECH	14 LEGENDARY ROAD	HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28739
MR & MRS FRANK DIGGS	5090 37th STREET	N. ARLINGTON, VA 22207
MR & MRS GEORGE DURGIN	4405 ALERWOOD WAY	SACRAMENTO, CA 95864
MR & MRS VINCENT J. DI FRANCESCO, M.D.	5121 MANNING DRIVE	BETHESDA, MD 20814
MR & MRS ALAN DUNBAR	4675 GREEN CANYON DRIVE	LAS VEGAS, NV 89103
MR & MRS LESTER EDSALL	5340 N. WASHINGTON ROAD	PIQUA, OH 45356
MRS RICHARD ENGLEHART	1400 WILLOW # 803	LOUISVILLE, KY 40204
I KE E. FRANKLIN	2215 PIN OAK LANE	ARLINGTON, TX 76012
ANNE FRAZER/SILLAS OLERSINSKI (PRIEST)	13 E. YALE LOOP	IRVINE, CA 92714
JOSEPH FRIEDMAN	0-18 30th STREET	FAIRLAWN, NJ 07410
THURSTON Q. GARRETT, JR	P.O. BOX 168	HITCHCOCK, TX 77563
DONALD O. GRAUL	QUAIL RUN APTS. 1167	COLUMBIA, S.C. 29206
MR & MRS GABRIEL GEVER	109 CAPTAIN BACON ROAD	SO. YARMOUTH, MA 02664

ATTENDEES 1989 REUNION SAN DIEGO, CAPAGE 2

JEROME R. HATCH	R.R. 1 BOX 1600	NORTHFIELD, VT 05663
MR & MRS GEORGE HERR	300 WILLOW VALLEY LAKE DRIVE	APT. E 320 WILLOW STREET, PA 17584
LAWRENCE HIGGINS	600 SOUTH 14TH STREET	CLARINDA, IA 51632
MR & MRS RANDOLPH HOLDER	383 WESTVIEW DRIVE	ATHENS, GA 30601
MR & MRS LE ROY IHRIE	4100 VAN DORN	LINCOLN, NE 68506
MR & MRS WILLIAM JONES	11316 HARDIN VALLEY	KNOXVILLE, TN 37932
MR & MRS CURTIS S. JONES	6 COLLEGE AVENUE	SWARTHMORE, PA 19081
MR & MRS WILLIAM B. KORBER	1526 NEWTON DR.	CHEYENNE, WY 82001
JIMMIS KANAYA	10412-123rd ST NW	GIG HARBOR, WA 98335
MR & MRS RAY KLINKENBERG	ROCK RAPID	IOWA 51246
MR & MRS CARL KASPER	7119 WOODLAWN	HAMMOND, IA 46324
MR & MRS MAJ. M. E. KEISER	507 U N 10TH STREET	LAWTON, OK 73501
MR & MRS W. J. LEACH	6412 KING ARTHUR CT.	FORT WORTH, TX 76118
MR & MRS ROYAL L. LEE	903 BAKER	MANKATO, MN 56001
LEWIS & JANET LOWE	1513 W. BERRIDGE LANE	PHOENIX, AZ 85015
MR & MRS THOMAS E. LAWSON	3200 NOLENE DRIVE	CLIFTON, CO 81520
MR & MRS JERRY MOHER	1210 PRICILLA LANE	ALEXANDRIA, VA 22308
CHARLIS & FRANCIS MOORE	22 W. HARMONT DRIVE	PHOENIX, AZ 85021
MR & MRS THEODORE A. PAWLOSKI	850 SHOEMAKER AVENUE	W. WYOMING, PA 18644
MR & MRS EUGENE L. RANCK	946 CARBONDALE ROAD	IONE, CA 95640
MR & MRS EDMOND RINEHART	1725 CROON DRIVE	MONTGOMERY, AL 36106
MRS. HENRY G. SCHULZ	3614 42VD AVE. N. E.	SEATTLE, WA 98105
MR. WILBUR SHARPE	7810 FULBRIGHT STREET	BETHESDA, MD 20817
MR & MRS JIM SHERMAN	3056 ROXBURY AVENUE	OAKLAND, CA 94605
R. JOHN SHIRK	772 BROWN SAGE DRIVE	GLENDORA, CA 91740
MR & MRS JOHN F. SLACK	1314 YOUNGSFORD ROAD	GLADWYNE, PA 19035
JOSEPH SERINGER	910 QUEENBY ROAD	WOOSTER, OH 44619
HARDNER M. SIMES	P.O. BOX 276	EAST MORICHES, NY 11940
MR & MRS GORDON K. SMITH	12113 CHESTER DRIVE	BATON ROUGE, LA 70810
MR & MRS JOHN A. STANSELL	904 LENNETTE	BELLAIRE, TX 77401



OFLAG '64 REUNION- SAN DIEGO,CALIFORNIA,OCTOBER 10-15,1989

#### A View From The Distaff Side

This was only my second reunion experience- the other being in Washington,D.C. two years ago. I was again impressed and humbled by the incredible bonds of friendship and love which permeate this whole organization.

It is remarkable to see how our men in the later years of their lives seem to be transformed into the gallant young officers who endured so much together so many years ago and that the wives of those who have passed on have remained steadfast and loyal in this extended family.

And now to the programme. John and I were personally happy to have arrived early so that we could participate in the many well-planned events. There is an enormous effort required to put together a program of this magnitude. All the ladies wish to thank Tom Drake and his entire family and Jim and Betty Sherman for the many hours of planning and thoughtful preparation which made the reunion a resounding success.

The visit to the San Diego zoo, harbour cruise, the wild animal park, the fun-filled trip to Tijuana, the wonderful dinners,the cocktail hours, the many opportunities to socialize,the entertainment, the dancing- it really boggles one's mind!! And how can any of us forget Quincey Drake and the pleasure of meeting so many of her family and all the other young

people who contributed so much to our fellowship and happiness.

Thank you and thank you again to all our wonderful men who continue to be such a close group and for giving us the opportunity to be included. Here's to many more happy occasions.

Elaine E. Creech

# The 14 German Prisoners of War Hanged at Fort Leavenworth

by  
Maj. Keith Wilson, Jr.  
Kansas City Chapter

Many ghosts drift about the ancient oaks and weathered brick buildings high on the bluff overlooking the Missouri River below the main post at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas—George Custer, the 7th Cavalry; Phil Sheridan, the Black Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry; and, more recently, George Patton, Jr., Dwight Eisenhower, and Omar Bradley. None of these, however, transmit such a bizarre tale of the misfortunes of war as do the 14 marked graves in line behind the old disciplinary barracks holding the remains of loyal soldiers and seamen of the Third Reich who were executed by hanging during July and August of 1945.

As the defeated supermen arrived in America, they were portioned out to prisoner-of-war stockades in Kansas, Arizona, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Georgia. Within the prison camps, the Germans were treated with all deference to the Geneva Convention. They were well fed and were paid monthly salaries for work performed.

Whether civilian or military, the worst fate that can befall a prisoner is to become known as a "snitch", an informer who deals with and transmits information to the prison guards. During the patriotic fervor that existed on both sides in World War II, dealing with the enemy was a particular



In 1942, German troops reached the Caucasus mountains in Russia and in Africa pushed close to Cairo. On the high seas, the Nazi U-boat wolfpacks dominated Atlantic shipping. By the end of the year, however, the tide had turned. Stalingrad was surrounded by the Soviets and American forces invaded the west coast of Africa, precipitating the long retreat and destruction of the Afrika Korps.

With the reversal of war fortunes, a trickle of German prisoners began to arrive in the United States. For the most part these early POW's were the cream of the fighting forces of the Third Reich—U-boat crewmen, Luftwaffe pilots, suntanned combat soldiers from the Afrika Korps.

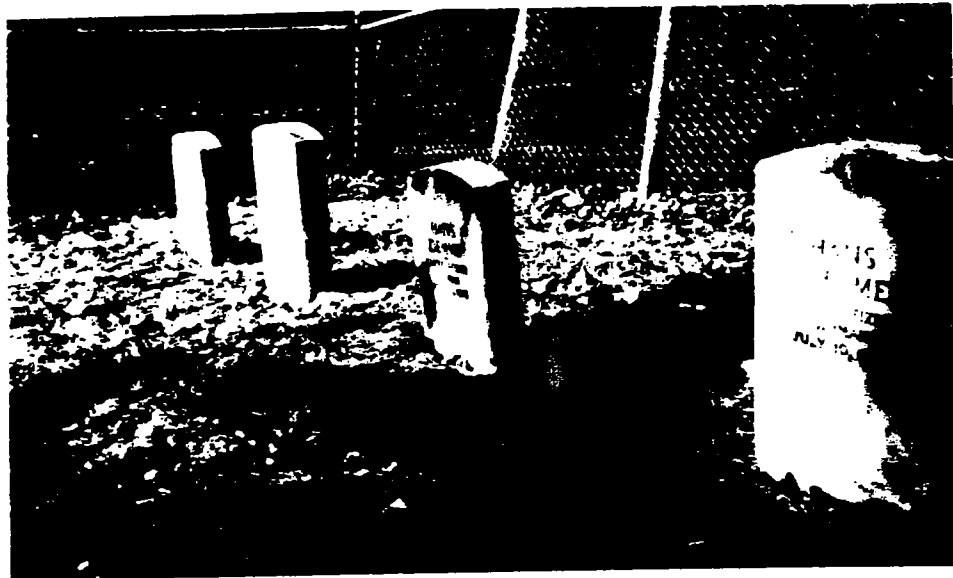
heinous act of treason. In three widely separated POW camps within the United States, the inmates discovered, tried, and executed three men of their number who had become American informers.

The first execution took place within a POW camp of former Afrika Korpsmen in Oklahoma during 1943. Five German prisoners were court-martialed and sentenced to die for this offense. Two prisoners were convicted of strangling an informer to death in April 1944 at a camp in Aiken, South Carolina. The last murder took place in a camp reserved for U-boat crewmen in Papago Park. Seven Navy men were found guilty of the crime and sentenced to die on the gallows.

In all of the resulting American military court martials, the defendants entered the defense that the three dead informers had committed acts of treason against the Third Reich for which the proper sentence was death and that their actions upheld the military laws of Germany.

had made the final pen strokes required to execute the German prisoners.

Some of the old-timers around the post, however, say that in accordance with the Geneva Treaty, the U.S. sent the message to the Nazi Foreign Office in Switzerland that 14 of their prisoners were going to be hung for



None of the U.S. military courts placed any credence in the defense and guilty verdicts were rendered for the 14 men who had been charged with the three separate killings. During World War II automatic appeal procedures did not exist in the code of military justice. The verdicts were forwarded to the commander in chief and 14 death warrants were signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

*The Manual for Courts-Martial* in 1944 permitted only two options for the death penalty: (a) "You shall be shot to death by musketry", or (b) "You shall be hung by the neck until dead". It was universally accepted by professional soldiers that hanging was a dishonorable death. Such was the verdict of the three American military courts. (In 1945, Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering poisoned himself in Nuremberg Prison when his request to die before a firing squad was refused and he was ordered to be hanged.)

The 14 prisoners were sentenced to be hanged and were transferred to the Army Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth.

Military death warrants are usually acted upon expeditiously after being signed by the President of the United States. The archives do not indicate why more than a year slipped by after FDR

murder. Hitler's foreign ministry made an immediate response, saying, "Thank you for your message. We shall treat American prisoners in the same fashion!"

Whatever the diplomatic exchange, the executions were placed on the back burner until V-E Day, May 8, 1945. As soon as the victorious American armies in Germany had accounted for all U.S. prisoners, the Nazi death warrants were placed on active status. The sentences were carried out on July 10, July 14 and August 25, 1945. Since there was no regular gallows at Fort Leavenworth, the 14 prisoners were executed through a temporary trap door placed in an elevator shaft in an old warehouse building on the post.

The first to die were the men of the Afrika Korps; Walter Beyer, age 32; Berthold Seidel, 30; Hans Schomer, 27; Hans Demme, 23; and Willi Scholz, 22. On July 14 the trap was sprung on Rudolf Straub, 39; and Erich Gauss, 32. The last executions were those of the U-boat crewmen on August 25; Otto Stengel, 26; Heinrich Ludwig, 25; Helmut Fischer, 22; Guenther Kuelsen, 22; Fritz Franke, 21; Bernard Reyak, 21; and Rolf Wizuy, 20.

All of the Germans were buried in a long row near the wall of the prison cemetery. Each grave is marked with

a stone containing the name of the dead man and the date of execution.

Most of the condemned men declined the customary offer of a chance to make a final statement. Two of the men denounced the sentences. Speaking through an interpreter, Hans Demme stated, "Yes, I have a statement to make... A wrong is being done."

Rudolf Straub was the most vocal. He declared to the interpreter, "I stand here not guilty. What I did was done as a German soldier under orders. If I had not done so I would have been punished when I returned to Germany."

The official witnesses at the executions were impressed by the discipline and stolid acceptance of their fate that the prisoners exhibited. Observers were amazed, considering the fanatic training each had undergone, that none of them shouted "Heil Hitler". The U-boat sailor, Otto Stengel, had his left breast pocket stuffed with what appeared to be documents as he marched to the trap door. After he was declared dead, an American officer emptied the shirt pocket. It contained folded pictures of Stengel's wife and two children. One was a 3-year-old boy whom Stengel told the prison priest he had never seen.

# 'TIL WE MEET AGAIN . . .

## August 2-20, 1990

*For those who went through the ordeal — long or short, only they know what it was to be a Prisoner of War. The underlying theme of "Till We Meet Again," based on the recent television mini-series, was driving — marching — flying and drinking. To many of us who weren't POWs, as well as you who were, we all did much of this.*

*For those of you who will join in with Henry Søderberg, the world is now different — but for eighteen days the memories will be . . . . . Until we meet again.*

U.S. ARMY



*General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, was F.D.R.'s ablest strategist.*

U.S. NAVY



*Admiral Ernest J. King was the exacting, hard-driving Chief of Naval Operations.*

HARRIS AND EWING PHOTOS



*General Henry H. Arnold headed the Air Corps, which was then part of the Army.*

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- Daily breakfast, whether Scandinavian buffet breakfast (BB) or continental breakfast (CB), lunch (L) and/or dinner (D) as indicated in the itinerary; coffee or tea is included with lunch or dinner
- Sightseeing by motorcoach with English-speaking guides as indicated in the itinerary, with admission fees
- "Copenhagen Card & Stockholm Card" for each participant that provides free public transportation and entrance to numerous sightseeing attractions in these two cities, to facilitate further independent touring and exploration
- Transfers on arrival and departure at all places with the handling of one suitcase per person
- All necessary tips to hotels and restaurant personnel, baggage porters, etc.
- Taxes charged by local governments on services which are a part of the tour arrangements

TOUR ITINERARY

Aug. 02 TRAVEL Board your SAS jet today for Thurs. your overnight flight.

Aug. 03 COPENHAGEN You are met at the airport by your tour manager and taken to your hotel. The day is at leisure to rest and adjust to European time. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner with wine at the elegant *Divan II* in Tivoli Gardens (within walking distance from the hotel). Sheraton Hotel (D)

Aug. 04 COPENHAGEN The morning is free for Sat. those who may wish to shop, for they close at 1:00 as in most of Europe.

Your afternoon City tour will feature Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen's biggest summer attraction. The New Carlsberg Glyptotek, Christiansborg Palace, Stock Exchange, the Royal Theatre, Nyhavn, the sailors' district, Amalienborg Palace, The Little Mermaid — the tiny statue which sits on a boulder near the water's edge, the Grundtvig Memorial Church and Rosenborg Castle. Finally the tour will include a visit to the Danish Resistance Museum.

An optional tour can be arranged to Odense, Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace. Approx. 11 hours. Or — to North Sealand seeing Kronborg and Fredriksborg Castles. Approx. 5 hours. Sheraton Hotel (BB)

Aug. 05 WARSAW, Poland Morning transfer to the Sun. airport. Your SAS flight is scheduled to leave just after 10 a.m., arriving 11:20.

You're met on arrival and taken to your hotel with the afternoon at leisure. This city was made capital of the grand duchy by Napoleon in 1807. Almost completely destroyed during WW II, it has literally been rebuilt along modern lines with wider streets, parks, squares and modern residential district. This evening is your official Welcome Dinner with wine, at Jablona Palace with guests attending from the Polish ex-POW organization and the U. S. Embassy. Hotel Victoria (BB, D)

Aug. 06 WARSAW Your morning Old City tour Mon. will feature the Zoo, Tenth Anniversary Stadium, Marienstadt, the Slasko-Dabrowski Bridge and the Kosciuszko Embankment. The afternoon is at leisure to explore and see what is happening with the Polish people these days! There is an early dinner in the hotel, to be followed by evening entertainment — a concert or folklore performance. Hotel Victoria (CB, D)



Little Mermaid

**YOUR CHOICE — PICK ONE**

Aug. 10 **LENINGRAD GROUP:**  
 Fri. Early morning departure by motorcoach, driving across the Russian border. Lunch stop enroute and arrival in the afternoon. Located at the east end of the Gulf of Finland, Leningrad is an interesting city, intersected by many canals and crossed by more than 600 bridges and is often called the "Venice of the North." It has long been the cultural center of Russia. Leningrad was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great. Dinner at your hotel will be followed by evening entertainment — folklore show or a circus performance.

Intourist Hotel (CB, L, D)

Aug. 11 **LENINGRAD** Your morning sightseeing drive will feature a visit to the famed Hermitage Winter Palace, galleries housing collections of world famous paintings, sculptures and valuable art objects that have been collected since the days of Peter the Great and Catherine.

Lunch is included at a local restaurant. Your afternoon excursion will take you on a drive through the countryside to the Summer Palace Petrodvorets, the favorite Palace of the Czars on the Gulf of Finland. Here Russia has completely restored the Palace grounds with its gold statues, fountains and beautiful walkways, as a remembrance of the greatness of the past — and for the recreation of the Soviet workers. Dinner at your hotel this evening.

Intourist Hotel (CB, L, D)



*Petrodvorets*

Aug. 12 **To HELSINKI** Late morning departure by coach for the return drive. Lunch stop enroute. Afternoon arrival and you're taken to the port to embark on your Viking Line steamer, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. departure. Gala dinner on board.

Viking Line (CB, L, D)

Aug 10 **HELSINKI GROUP:**  
 Fri. Your morning City tour will take you to the neo-classical center and its most modern districts. You'll see Senate Square, Market Square, Sibelius Memorial and the Temppeliaukio, "church in the rocks." The afternoon is free for shopping or to visit the Finnish Design Center. Tonight is a typical Finnish dinner at restaurant "Piekkka" followed by a concert at the famous Finlandia Hall — subject to performance schedule. The Hall is within walking distance of your hotel.

Ramada Presidentii (BB, D)

An optional tour can be arranged by air to Rovaniemi with overnight and visit to a Lapp encampment.

Aug. 11 **HELSINKI** Today, an excursion along the shores of the Gulf of Finland, to Porvoo — Finland's oldest city. Lunch will be at the elegant Haikko Manor, once a residence of the Russian tsarist family. Return to Helsinki in mid-afternoon. Independent dinner this evening.

Ramada Presidentii (BB, L)

Aug. 12 **HELSINKI** A morning cruise to the fortress island of Suomenlinna with lunch.

Afternoon transfer to the pier to embark on your Viking Line steamer, scheduled to depart at 6:00 p.m. You'll see the others that have just returned from Russia and you'll all join in the Gala dinner with wine included, on board.

Viking Line

Aug. 13 **STOCKHOLM** On arrival at 9:00 a.m., Mon. you'll be met at the pier and begin a City tour, featuring the Coronation Church and the modern part of Stockholm with a visit to the Town Hall, an acknowledged masterpiece of modern architecture. The tour will terminate at your hotel and the afternoon is free. Dinner this evening, including wine, is at the famous Restaurant Solliden, located at the Skansen open-air museum.

Hotel Sergel Plaza and Hotel Park (BB, D)

Aug. 14 **STOCKHOLM** The full day is at leisure. Tues. The city is built on islands and rocky bluffs overlooking Lake Malaren, where it joins the Baltic Sea. Cobble streets wind through the Old part of the City and on the bluffs, ultra-modern apartment houses rise, tier upon tier.

Hotel Sergel Plaza/Hotel Park (BB)

Optional Excursions: The old University Town of Uppsala, Skokloster and Sigtuna, Sweden's oldest town.

By air to the medieval picturesque town of Visby on the Baltic Island of Gotland.

Optional performance this evening at the old Royal Theatre at Drottningholm. There are a limited number of tickets available, cost approx. \$35 — \$40 each, depending on the exchange rate. First-come basis!

Aug. 07 POZNAN Leave this morning by motor-coach. There is a lunch stop enroute. In Western Poland, half-way between Warsaw and Berlin, Poznan has been a famed market place for a thousand years. It has been the site of an International Trade Fair since 1922 – the largest fair in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, scheduled each June. Dinner this evening is with Polish ex-POW guests. Hotel Poznan (CB, D)

Aug 08 POZNAN / Campsite Visits After an early Wed. breakfast, depart by buses in two groups:

A. . . . . SAGAN GROUP (150 km.) Visit to Luft III campsite, honors to the Nazi victims at nearby Memorial and Museum, POW-cemetery, Church in Halbau (Ilowa), sightseeing in Sagan (Zegan). Early dinner with local dignitaries and Polish ex-POW. Late return to your hotel in Poznan.

B. . . . . SZUBIN GROUP (100 km.) Visit to Oflag 64 campsite. Honors to Nazi victims at monument outside camp gate. Early dinner with local dignitaries and Polish ex-POW. Late return to Poznan.

Hotel Poznan

(CB, D)



American prisoners of war at Sagan camp celebrate July 4, 1944, with a "bash" that featured gaming tables. The POWs could trade Red Cross cigarettes for gambling chips.

*Their German captors called them Kriegsgefangenen – a tongue twister that the prisoners shortened to "Kriegie." The jaunty nickname belied the grim facts of POW life faced daily by the more than seven million men – American, British and Commonwealth, French, Polish and Russian – held by the Germans between 1939 and 1945. Barracks, often jerry-built, were freezing cold in the winter and stifling hot in the summer; food was meager and unappetizing.*

*Kriegies coped with captivity as best they could – by reading and study, sports, theatricals and hobbies and by keeping track of the world outside the barbed wire. Prisoners published camp newspapers filled with hometown items from letters and newly captured POWs and enlivened with hand-drawn comic strips and cartoons. They set up situation rooms equipped with maps and colored pins to trace the war on all fronts, using information they picked up on forbidden radios.*

Dubbed "King of the Ferrets" by prisoners, Sergeant Herman Glimnitz unearthed more than 100 tunnels at Stalag Luft 3 in Sagan, Germany.



Aug. 09 HELSINKI Depart Poznan for the airport Thurs. in Warsaw. There is a luncheon stop on the way. Your LOT Polish airline is scheduled to depart at 4:35 p.m., with arrival in Finland at 7:20. You're met and taken to your hotel. Independent dinner this evening.

Ramada Presidentii

(CB, L)



Aug. 15 **STOCKHOLM** The morning is at leisure.  
 Wed. There is a special tour in the afternoon that will include a visit to the brand new sport center "Globen" (the Globe), to Carl Milles' sculpture gardens and terminating with a tour of the brand new Worldwide Headquarters of SAS, followed by a buffet dinner in the airline restaurant - compliments of SAS. Hotels Sergel Plaza / Park (BB, D)

Aug. 16 **OSLO** Morning departure to the airport  
 Thurs. for your SAS flight to the capital of Norway. You're met on arrival and taken to your hotel with the afternoon free. This 900 year old capital lies in a landward encirclement of hills with a southern exposure to the delightful Oslofjord and its teeming array of white sails, motorboats and innumerable islands. This evening you go to the Holmenkollen Restaurant for dinner with wine, and a birds-eye view of the city and fjords below.  
 Hotel Scandinavia (BB, D)

Aug. 17 **OSLO** Your morning tour will take you to  
 Fri. the unique Vigeland Sculpture Park, the much-photographed Viking Ship Museum, the Kon Tiki and the Resistance Museum. The rest of the day is free, with dinner on your own.  
 Hotel Scandinavia (BB)

Optional excursion - to cruise the Oslofjord  
 Or - by air to Trondheim, an ancient capital of Norway.

Aug. 18 **BERGEN** After breakfast this morning,  
 Sat. transfer to the rail station and board the scenic Bergen Mountain Railroad that will take you "across the roof of Norway." A box lunch is included and there is a dining car where you can get something to drink. Then descend into the western fjords at Bergen. You're met and taken to your hotel, with dinner on your own.  
 Hotel Norge (BB & box lunch)

Aug. 19 **BERGEN** Your morning excursion will  
 Sun. take you to Troldhaugen, home of Norwegian composer, Edvard Grieg, now preserved as a museum. Continue to Fantoft with its "Stave" church dating from the 11th century when catholic priests first brought religion to Norway, and terminate with a funicular ride to Mount Floyen for a birds-eye view of the city. The afternoon is at leisure. This evening is a Gala Farewell Dinner with wine at the hotel.  
 Hotel Norge (BB, D)

An optional fishing trip on the fjord can be arranged today if you don't want to take the sightseeing tour.

Aug. 20 **TRAVEL** Board your SAS jet for the re-  
 Mon. turn flight to the USA, arriving the same day. At the first port of entry, everyone will clear customs before catching home-bound flights. We hope you have enjoyed! (BB)

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**DEPOSIT** \$300 per person is required to secure space. **FINAL** payment on the land portion is due 60 days prior to departure, made payable by check or money order; credit cards are accepted [only] for air tickets.

All **CANCELLATIONS** must be received in writing and are subject to an administrative fee of \$35 per person once participant is confirmed. Additionally, up to 30 days prior to departure, refund will be made less \$55 per person. Cancellations received 30-16 days prior to departure will forfeit fee of 50% of the land cost. Cancellations received 15 days or less to departure will be forfeit 100% of the land cost. No refund for unused portions of the tour. No show - no refund.

**SINGLES** - we will try to find a roommate on request but provide no guarantee that another single will want to share accommodations.

**COST** of airfares and land arrangements are based on a minimum number of forty-five (45) participants; are quoted in U.S. dollars and are based on tariffs and rates of exchange in effect as of November 1989 and may be adjusted up to 30 days prior to departure should airfares, rates and/or exchange rates fluctuate.



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The tour program is planned well in advance and if, between planning time and actual tour operation, circumstances beyond control require changes, the right is reserved to vary itineraries and to make minor adjustments to the itinerary.

**CONFIRMATION** of receipt of deposit will include a packet of insurance for health, baggage and trip cancellation. The **FINAL** mailing will be sent United Parcel Service two weeks prior to departure. As UPS does not deliver to a Post Office Box, we need participant's street and apartment number, if applicable.

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# OBITUARIES

## **Gabriel Gever**

72; retired chemist served on Yarmouth board

SOUTH YARMOUTH – Gabriel Gever, 72, a research chemist with Norwich Pharmacal Co. and Eaton Labs of Norwich, N.Y., from 1946 until retiring in 1977, died Wednesday at Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis.

He was the husband of Jean (Hayes) Gever of South Yarmouth.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. Gever received his bachelor's degree in 1938 from Brown University in Providence, R.I., and in 1942, while attending Columbia University in New York City, was called to serve in the Army during World War II.

He was a German prisoner of war in North Africa from 1943 to 1945, before being discharged as a

first lieutenant.

Mr. Gever lived for many years in Norwich before retiring in 1977 to South Yarmouth.

He served for several years on the Yarmouth finance committee and was a member of the Cape Cod Men's Club.

Besides his wife, survivors include two daughters, Christine of Austin, Texas, and Martha Gever of Brooklyn, N.Y.; two sons, David of Washington, D.C., and John Gever of Birmingham, Ala.; and two grandchildren, Stacy and Erin Gever of Norwich, N.Y.

He was the father of the late Bruce Gever and Barbara Tobin.

The funeral will be private. Burial will be at a later date in Ancient Cemetery, Yarmouthport.

Memorial donations may be made to the Bruce Gever Scholarship Fund, c/o James Williams, National Bank & Trust Co., South Broad Street, Norwich, N.Y., 13815.

## **Kenneth Read, 70, Glenwood**

Funeral services for Kenneth B. (Kick) Read, 70, of Glenwood were held December 5 at Peterson Mortuary in Glenwood. The Rev. Edward Phillips officiated, with burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Mr. Read passed away December 2, 1989, at Veteran's Hospital in Omaha.

He was born October 12, 1919, in Cromwell, the son of Bernard and Anna Read. He married Verma Erbes on November 2, 1947, in Glenwood.

He was a retired assistant to the Mills County Engineer, and was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in World War II. He was a prisoner of war for 27 months. He was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, and the Emerson Humanity Masonic Lodge No. 378 A.F.&A.M.

He was preceded in death by an infant son.

Survivors include his wife Verma of Glenwood; a son, Leonard Read of Annapolis, Md.; his mother, Anna Fern Clark of Glenwood; and a sister, Joan Twaddle of Emerson.

Ardis Dusenberry was the organist at the funeral service. Pallbearers were Markie Harrington, Bob Moore, Hugh Trask, Bill Stivers, Dale Howard and Carl Clapper. Honorary pallbearers were Kenneth Asmussen, Glenn Johnson, Alfred Johnson and Bob Williams.

Masonic services were conducted by Emerson Humanity Masonic Lodge No. 378 A.F.&A.M.

Memorials are suggested to the Grace United Methodist Church, or the Glenwood Public Library.

# Sentimental journey

## WWII vet returning to beach where he was part of D-day push

By Sue Ann Jones

Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — Paul Marable is going back to Utah Beach.

A few million Americans will watch his journey, thanks to public television reporter Bill Moyers, whose program about the trip is to be broadcast next spring.

Mr. Marable, vice chairman of First Savings and Loan Association, leaves Aug. 23 for Europe, to stand again on the beach where he landed on D-day-plus-two, and the French hill where German soldiers captured him 12 days later.

"Bill Moyers wants me to take him to that hill, and go on camera and explain what happened," said Mr. Marable, who will be one of about a dozen World War II veterans who will share personal memories at war sites.

The veterans and others interested in military history will be part of a University of Texas travel-study group. The two-week tour will visit major European battlefields and historic sites of the war.

Mr. Moyers' program about the trip is scheduled to be broadcast around the 45th anniversary of Victory-in-Europe Day on May 8, 1990.

The trip has been organized and led during the last three summers by Thomas Hatfield, dean of the UT Division of Continuing Education.

"Moyers' intention is not to make a documentary about war but about the effects of war on individuals, on their values, their careers and their families," Mr. Hatfield

said. "He will ask them, these 45 years later, about what they saw or did at these places during the war. He wants these men with the rich stories to have a chance to tell them to the American people."

Most members of the travel-study group responded to mailings describing the upcoming tour, Mr. Hatfield said.

Mr. Marable's daughter, UT faculty member Betty Sue Flowers, has worked as a consultant and editor for Mr. Moyers on other projects. When Ms. Flowers showed Mr. Moyers her father's book of war memoirs, the journalist invited Mr. Marable to join the program.

Group members will fly to London, then travel to Normandy and other battlefields, stopping along the way for talks by military history experts. Mr. Moyers and a film crew will follow the group's bus in a van.

"They will leave us and go to the sites where the veterans saw combat and interview them there," Mr. Hatfield said, giving as an example the hilltop where Mr. Marable was captured in June 1944. "Mr. Marable tells me as a young man it was burned into his memory, and he will be able to find it again."

Mr. Marable, now 67, landed on Utah Beach two days after D-day, escorting two trucks loaded with ammunition, then directing his men to their assembly point. He was a 22-year-old second lieutenant.

"Was I afraid? I think the term 'exhilaration' describes it best. Maybe fear was part of that. Or

maybe it was anxiety," he said, recalling his feelings that day as he swung down the side of the transport ship on a rope ladder.

This will not be Mr. Marable's first visit back to the beach. In 1971, he and his wife, Betty, went back to Normandy.

"I could not pinpoint the very 50 yards of beach, but a monument to the 90th Infantry Division has been erected on a German gun emplacement there. . . . I had a strange feeling while I was there," Mr. Marable said. "Later, I realized it was because I could walk upright — not running around, bent over, then stop and fall down."

His division's mission was to cross the peninsula and stop the Germans from escaping or being reinforced. Along the way — on June 19, 1944 — Mr. Marable was captured.

He ended up in a POW camp in Poland after spending two months marching, riding charcoal-burning trucks and crowding into boxcars so tightly "in sleeping, we had to all turn the same direction on our sides. Then when we got so sore we couldn't stand it, we all changed sides."

Mr. Marable didn't help dig the escape tunnel that prisoners were working on in his POW camp. He didn't even know where it was, but he helped hide the dirt, carrying it in a tube inside his trousers, and scuffing his feet through the snow so the dirt would be hidden in the mud.

The result was feet so badly swollen

his toenails cracked, meaning he couldn't wear shoes, despite temperatures that dropped to 40 degrees below zero.

Five months after he arrived at the Polish POW camp, most of the prisoners were marched out as the Nazis fled the approaching Russian liberators. Mr. Marable, unable to walk because of his swollen feet, remained behind with 30 to 40 other sick, wounded and lame men. They feasted on sugar found in the warehouse — and beef from a cow that the Russians provided.

"Everyone got so sick," he said.

Several years ago, Mr. Marable wrote his war memoirs, mostly about his capture and imprisonment. As a gift while he worked for the Waco Chamber of Commerce, friends and colleagues had the memoirs reprinted in hardback books. Few battle stories are included — but not because Mr. Marable has forgotten them.

"Bill Moyers says in a letter that he hopes to have us recapture our emotions when we're visiting these places over there," Mr. Marable said. "And one question he mentions is what will I tell my children and grandchildren. And my answer is, 'Nothing.' I don't talk about the battle stories. I don't really want to recall that."

"When you see people falling around you and you can't help because you have to go on and do your job — when you can't stop — some of those memories are very painful."

Distributed by Associated Press



Associated Press

Paul Marable, a Waco savings and loan official, returns to Europe this month to recount his World War II memories for a Bill Moyers program scheduled to be broadcast on PBS next spring.

# HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLDER

- Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
- Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- You get winded playing chess.
- You join a health club and don't go.
- You're still chasing women, but can't remember why.
- You look forward to a dull evening.
- You turn out the light for economic rather than romantic reasons.
- You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- Dialing long distance wears you out.
- Your back goes out more than you do.
- Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl go by.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

*COURTESY OF IRVING YAROCK*

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# Tree Climbing

By Clayton Metcalf

*'Take it from one who knows.'*

What is it like behind the wire? On Sept. 13, 1944, my jeep driver and I drove into a German roadblock in a small village in France called Suffrais. We had been given wrong directions by one of our unit officers. Still another bad piece of advice given us was that we should drive fast through the village, since it was being shelled rather heavily at the time.

Our battalion commander had promised to be on the lookout for us, and would stop us at the proper place. We were stopped—but not as planned!

Our jeep was moving along pretty well, when suddenly the village loomed into sight. At the same time, figures began to appear in "strange uniforms" to our front. These weren't the troops we were expecting but a bunch of German soldiers.

Heroically (I thought), I told my driver to turn around. (I must admit that these were NOT the exact words that I used at the time.) We did turn around, but only as we were being shot and thrown out of the jeep as it turned over in the middle of the highway.

The moral of this part of the story is NOT to try to shoot it out with a German Tiger Tank with a .30 calibre carbine. It just won't work!

There we were the uninvited guests of

the German Army—the 11th Panzer Division, to be exact. We had heard of their reputation and this did not make us very comfortable. They were a "rugged" outfit. Ten minutes before then, we had been eating chow in our regimental field mess. It does make a difference!

Many people have asked if we were scared when we were wounded and captured. Frankly, you don't have time to be afraid for you are too busy trying to figure out how to get out of the mess you got into. Later on, the truth sets in.

Another question asked of us was what it was like being imprisoned. This is much like another question. How high is up? One answer would be like William Bendix used to say in the comedy series "The Life of Riley," this being "what a revolting development this is!" How true this was!

I can't honestly compare my confinement as a prisoner-of-war with those being held as hostages. I don't know the kind of quarters given them; what kind of medical or sanitary facilities that are available to them; what kind, quality, or quantity of food they are given; the adequacy of their clothing; nor do I know whether or not they have been physically or mentally mistreated. The one thing I'm positive

about is that their freedom has been taken from them if possibly only temporarily.

It would be my judgment that they are being better fed; have better living quarters; have better medical supervision; have better sanitation facilities and everything better than we were afforded as POWs. I seriously doubt that they are being mistreated physically. Like us, it was unfortunate that they were at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Wartime made the difference in our situation. As far as we know, our hostages that are being held have done nothing to bring about their confinement. These people have been taken hostages by various terrorist groups, while we were involved in combat against our enemy.

Certainly there are differences between military imprisonments and political imprisonments. We, as prisoners-of-war, knew that (if we lived) we should be released upon the cessation of hostilities. Our imprisoned hostages have no such hope. They have no idea as to when, where, what terms, or even if they will be released.

Yep, take it from one who knows—it is rough behind the wire. But in some ways, sometimes, it ain't real comfortable "outside" no more.

## At last

The Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society recently purchased a building downtown to be used for expansion of the society's museum, library, and gift shop. Pictured from left, are: Tommie Speigner, Kenneth Harrison, and Clayton Metcalf. (Photo by Michelle Mann)



# Moyers to base World War II show on UT tour

By Monty Jones  
American-Statesman Staff

Television journalist Bill Moyers will use a University of Texas study tour of World War II battle sites as the basis for a documentary about how war affects the lives of individual soldiers.

Moyers and a film crew will accompany the 66 participants on the two-week tour next month as they visit D-Day battlefields in Normandy and sites of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg. Twelve participants are veterans of campaigns that were fought along the tour route.

"The men who fought World War II literally saved Western civilization from barbarism. We owe them our freedom today," Moyers said. "So I look forward to accompanying some of these men . . . as they return to the scenes of battle. I believe there is an important documentary to be made as they recall their experiences and talk about their lives then and since."

The tour provides "a splendid opportunity for television to help millions of Americans take a refresher course in the history of our times," he said.

The documentary is expected to be shown on PBS next spring on the 45th anniversary of Germany's surrender.

Two Central Texans — Jose Lopez of San Antonio, a winner of the Medal of Honor, and Paul Marable of Waco, who spent 8½ months as a German prisoner of war — will be among the participants, said Thomas Hatfield, dean of continuing education at UT and leader of the tour.

Marable has revisited Normandy once since the war, but the trip will be the first time Lopez has returned, Hatfield said.

"Moyers wanted us to get as many veterans as possible who had never been back, so he could get



Journalist Bill Moyers will join 66 people touring European battle sites.

their first response," Hatfield said. Registration for the tour closed July 1.

The UT Division of Continuing Education has sponsored tours of World War II battlefields and cemeteries annually since 1987. The tours include lectures along the way by military historians.

Sites to be visited this year include the Normandy beaches where the Allies landed in June 1944, several sites in the Ardennes forest where the Battle of the Bulge was fought in December 1944, and Remagen Bridge, where Allied armies first crossed the Rhine.

Marable, a savings and loan official in Waco, said the tour will give him an opportunity to visit several sites that he missed on his first return visit in the early 1970s, including an Allied cemetery between Omaha Beach and Utah Beach in Normandy.

"I feel relatively sure that when I get to that big cemetery . . . I would find myself being stony hard if the sight didn't touch me, because I can remember many of my friends falling around me," he said.

Marable was a second lieutenant with the Army's 90th Division when he landed on Utah Beach as part of the D-Day invasion. He was captured in Normandy. On the 25th anniversary of his release in 1945, Marable finished a book, *255 Days*, for his children about his experiences as a POW.

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