



Prisoner's drawing of Oflag 64, reproduced from The Sun of January 1, 1945 BY JAMES BICKERS
 Drawing does not show the three, high, barbed wire fences surrounding the 900 feet by 1200 foot area of the P.O.W.-Camp; nor are the eleven guard towers shown.

GLADWYNE, PA - NORFOLK, VA Took a trip to the Stalag Luft III Convention in Norfolk, VA. It was quite a show with about 1,200 Ex-Air Corps Kriegies in attendance.

There were 2 rooms devoted to exhibits: one was for patches and other insignia and uniforms with pictures as well as male store window dress forms dressed in WWII uniforms.

In the lobby areas of the hotel were a triple decker bunk and a replica of a guard tower. Small guard towers were on each table of the banquet hall Saturday night.

With a mailing list of 4,000, it is easy to understand why they are able to get some of these replicas built and put in place for the convention.

One of the sessions was a question and answer period with a panel of former censors at the Stalag. They had four censors for whom they had arranged the flight over from Germany.

Each censor told his or her respective stories of what happened to them after the war till the present before relating their censor story.

One of them, when evacuated from the Stalag, picked up a large handful of unopened and uncensored mail and was able to keep it until she arrived in Norfolk. Some of it was delivered

to the surprised recipients at the question and answer session held with the censors. Many tearful moments!

It was also helpful to have Henry Soderberg present to autograph some of his books which were on sale. There were about fifty of them sold.

The memorial breakfast Sunday morning was a very well attended and excellent service.

Norfolk (my first visit) was a very, very clean city. Modern and up-to-date. Of course, a lot of Navy personnel. They have developed and devoted much of their time to housing military groups of all kinds to hold their conventions there.

It's a possibility for a future meeting place for us.

So much for Stalag Luft III.

LAS VEGAS, NV So as to make your travel plans easier to get there, Alan Dunbar suggested I get some preferred rates on an airline. So here is your Meeting Identification Number on United Airlines: #435KT.

Just give this number to your

travel agent or UAL ticket agent at the time you order your tickets for a discount on the price of your tickets.
Good Flying!

(Please advise if you have any problems with this. I'll try to help out. Editor)

CLEMSON, SC It's always interesting to receive a letter from Ellen Bryant who writes to me now and then in lieu of hearing from Wright. He is in a nursing home and spends time at home on high days and holidays when Ellen has some additional help around to assist her in moving Wright around. (3 nights at home at Easter time). Her note was written on the announcement of two meetings of the American Ex-Prisoners of War of their local chapter in Anderson, SC. They already have seven chapters and are going to try to start another one in Greenville.

Thanks, Ellen, for a nice note. Hope you and Wright are holding up very well. We all wish Wright the best.

UPPER ARLINGTON, OH Nice brief note from Col. Joseph T. Brown who needed some information on the upcoming trip to Poland and also ordered some of the articles I still have available for sale. Thanks for the contribution to the P.F., Colonel. Looking forward to getting to know you better on the trip.

AUSTIN, TX Sure nice to hear from Walter "Doc" Parks. I lived in Austin about four weekends before going overseas in 1942 while stationed at Fort Hood.

We lived on a lake with a bar across from it and became tremendously well acquainted with the "Yellow Rose of Texas" all weekends! Great! Hope you and Craig Campbell can get together and maybe both of you will join us in Las Vegas. Thanks for your change of address notice.

WASHINGTON, DC Thanks for letting me know you're not going to Poland. Sorry you can't join us in August, Dick Parker, but can understand. Have a good trip. If you want an update on things in Poland, feel free to call me after the 23rd of August upon my return (215-642-9173). Thanks for the check for the P.F.

LAS VEGAS, NV See enclosed flyer for program at Las Vegas that Alan Dunbar, our General Chairman, has arranged so far. Looks like we're in for another great time at Las Vegas.

Send in your registration early so that Alan can pay advance charges that are required by the hotel, etc.

A second flyer is also being included to advise you of other events, places and activities available from our hotel.

Also included in this mailing is your hotel reservation card. Send that in as soon as you can to make sure you have a place to stay overnight.

Looking forward to seeing ALL of you at Las Vegas. It's a fun city! A relaxing city! A place for Ole Kriegies to spend a few days together. Wouldn't it be great to have all 475+ of us see each other one more time!

See you in Las Vegas --
October 11, 12, 13 and 14.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN Many letters from Henry Soderberg re: our August trip to Schubin and Sagan in Poland, then on to Leningrad and Helsinki as desired. I know it's going to be a fabulous trip with Henry's expertise and personal attention to the surprise guests and fabulous different places to visit. I'm convinced that each of us going on this trip will be able to talk about it for the rest of his or her life. Gee, Henry, don't let me down!

Looking forward to a GREAT trip!

FORT WORTH, TX The Christmas letter of Ike Franklin is, in my opinion, worth including a copy of in this newsletter and that's what I've done. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

CENTERVILLE, OH It is always nice to hear from Bob Wenger. He's living between Florida and Ohio, which is pretty nice living. Thanks for your contribution to the postage fund.

Thanks also for Gus Ferris' address. It's great to add a new name to our list that has been among the missing. Hope you both can make Las Vegas.

SONOMA, CA Quite a lengthy letter from Col. E. M. Robertson who tried very hard to get to join us in Santa Fe, but whose health at that time wouldn't allow him to make the trip. We sure hope you can make it to Las Vegas. We're looking forward to seeing and greeting each other there. Thanks for your letter and input. Your newspaper articles will be part of our Archives.

BATON ROUGE, LA Thanks, Gordon Smith, for your nice contribution to the postage fund. Sure looking forward to seeing you in Las Vegas. Hope also that you're successful in getting Bill Paty to come. Do you have his latest address? Please send it to me as I do not have it. Thanks. Best to Marty. See you both in Vegas.

NORFOLK, VA One of the censors at Stalag Luft III, Gisela Woicke, from Wuerzburg, was interested in John Creech's address for one of her previous U.S. Army employers.

After sending this to her, I received a very nice thank you note which included her itinerary in the States after the Norfolk reunion. All in all, a very pleasant contact.

CLIFTON, TX Hi, Jim Betts. Welcome to our current Oflag 64 group! My thanks to Clarence for his kind referral. Having lived with the late Charles Dunn and travelled with Col. Schaefer, I feel fairly close to a former member of the 45th Division.

Thanks, Jim, also for the story on Al Boiney. Jim relates that Al was about to put on an outdoor program of some kind and was putting on a P.A. headset when a thunderstorm came up and lightning struck his headset, which, of course, was unfortunately the end for Al. Jim believes Al was from Hawthorne, NJ and was very young in '64 (about 19). His death occurred in August of '45.

Try to make Las Vegas, Jim. I'm sure many of your former mates from 6A and 6B would be glad to see you.

OCTOBER 11, 12, 13, 14, 1990.

WELCOME

PARIS, TN Received a letter from the author of the book -- The Legacy of the 7th U.S. Cavalry by Edward L. Daily. It is interesting to note one specific page which the author has included in the book. I have reproduced the entire page with this issue of the Post Oflag Item.

In case you would want the book, it may be obtained from:
Turner Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 3101
Paducah, KY 42202

Ed Daily has sent a copy of the book to Tom Drake in San Diego. Thanks, Mr. Daily, for supplying me with this information.

BOWLING GREEN, KY Hi, Vern Hubbell! You sure have been travelling. Hope you have enough energy and money left to get to Las Vegas. I see you've gotten in a little golf also in between trips. Great! Now also get Lew Wilcox to get to Vegas with you. Thanks much for your very generous contribution to the P.F. It's always great to hear from you.

I'm looking forward to the trip to Poland. Henry had many surprises for us on the first trip. He has refined his art today so we should have many more on this one.

Sorry you won't be along. See you in Vegas.

PINEHURST, NC It's always good to hear from "Doc" Garris. Sure glad you had a nice spring. The flowers were great up here also. Hope you are going to make the trip with us. I haven't checked lately on the final list, so I don't really know.

I'm sure you had a nice visit with the friend from General Bor's underground. Those "boys" did quite a job and I'm sure they continued and were much assistance to Lech Walesa in his Solidarity work. Hope to talk to you about it in Vegas. See you there, if not before.

COLUMBIA (BALLENINE) SC Thanks, Marty Higgins, for letting me know that you want your name removed from our list. It is with regret that I do this.

Glad you remember Frank Maxwell as many of us do. As I recall it, Frank passed away a few months after we returned from our first

visit back to Schubin in 1971. What a wonderful trip he had! Sure glad you were able to make use of the socks and longjohns that he gave you.

OLEAN, NY Hi, Van Munson! Always good to hear from you and appreciate your nice contribution to the P.F. The information you need for the next reunion is in this mailing of the Oflag Item. Sign up early.

WASHINGTON, DC Had the last mailing to:

Rev. T. F. Calpin, O.S.A.
Archbishop Carroll H.S.
4300 Harewood Road, N.W.
Washington, DC
returned to me, marked deceased.
We are sorry to learn of this, but have no contacts with others about Rev. Calpin.

NAPLES, FL Mrs. Virginia Barton wrote to advise of the passing of her husband, Dale, on April 12, 1990. He passed away due to irreversible asthma. So sorry to learn of this loss to you and your family. We all will miss Dale and our sympathy is definitely with you.

I indeed was glad to have had the opportunity to meet Dale and regret not to have been able to know him better.

All on our mailing list will know of this upon receipt of this newsletter.

Thank you indeed for advising us of Dale's passing.

KAUFMAN, TX A brief note from the Chappells mostly containing information on Henry Pritchett whose obituary we published previously. Always nice to hear from both Ray and Helen. Over the years they have contributed greatly to our reunions and the general air of camaraderie at these events.

Definitely see you at Vegas.

SALEM, OR Another brief note, this one from Lloyd Shoemaker whom I met and dined with in Norfolk. Lloyd is the author of The Escape Factory. Sure hope you have gotten your copy by now. Extremely fascinating book!

See you in Vegas! Thanks for the postage, Lloyd.

COLWYN, PA Harry Albertson, of THIS suburban Philadelphia town, said he was sorry to learn of the change from Atlantic City to Vegas.

I was too, Harry, but sometimes things just don't work out the way we plan.

You would have a great time in Vegas. Why not try? Surprise me! I don't get to see you around here, but maybe you could change that and see me in Vegas.

Thanks for the nice contribution to the P.F.

HITCHCOCK, TX Thanks much to Thurston Garrett for his contribution to the P.F. Also thanks for the brief note that was with the check. Will definitely look forward to seeing you in Vegas.

FOREST ACRES, SC Bill Shuler wrote the last time that he's having a hard time seeing what he is writing. Boy, Bill, my secretary raises hell with me all the time!

Bill was a companion of Dale Barton on their liberation in Poland in that winter of 1945. Went by an irregular route to Odessa and then Port Said, Port Fouad, Naples and on home. He saw Dale at the Washington reunion for the first time since 1945. (That's what reunions are for!)

Thanks, Bill, for letting us know about Dale. Hope you're seeing better and that your eye operation was successful.

Need your input of new listings of 64'ers from American Ex-POW Bulletins.

Hope you can make Vegas.

HOUSTON, TX Good to hear from you, John Jones. Thanks very much for your real nice contribution to the P.F.

Sure hope nothing keeps you from getting to Las Vegas. Alan seems to have a great time scheduled for us. It will be good to see you as well as all the rest of the group. Thanks also for the clipping on Henry Pritchett.

Here's to seeing you in Las Vegas.

ENGLAND, AK From this whistle stop in the outback of America has come many words of wisdom and advice as well as friendship. Billy Bingham has spent many an hour on the phone with his many friends from Oflag 64. I'm sure most all of you know Billy.

I'm glad you, Beth and the Oshlos are going to be on the trip to Poland on August 2, 1990. We'll miss Roy and Helen, but this should make it easier for us to get out of Poland. Looking forward to seeing you, Beth and Billy.

Thanks for the information on Mrs. Waters. Keep yourself healthy.

I know that Henry Soderberg will be a great guide in the Scandinavian countries. See you soon.

WHISPERING PINES, NC Carl Christiansen writes that he had knee surgery in December of '89. Sure hope you're moving around by now, Carl. Thanks much for your check for the P.F. and if you make it to Las Vegas, please explain to me what a "bare boat charter" involves and why a "cave" on a boat is not a good prop. Thanks!

SAN ANTONIO, TX Sure hope you keep writing to me, "Chum" Williamson, because your town brings back many fond memories as you can well imagine.

Thanks for calling my attention to the Katyn Forest article in "Readers Digest." Col. Van Vliet has seen this article. As a matter of fact, see my notes on Col. Van Vliet later in this newsletter.

Thanks much for your nice contribution to the P.F.

The address sheet is updated and included with this Item. (I hope I don't forget it this time.)

Incidentally, I have followed the Katyn Forest situation along with Co. Van Vliet over the years, as the periodical I read, "Spotlight," carried many articles on it many times when the Establishment didn't mention it.

Hope you can make Vegas.

CINCINNATI, OH Thanks a lot for your note on Ken Reid, Dave McConnanghey. I am unable to help you on Tom Griffin as he is not on my current mailing list. Perhaps someone else has known about him over the years and can help you. So anyone knowing about a Tom

Griffin, please write and let Dave McConnanghey
4102 Independence Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45255
know whatever information you may have. Thanks.

Thanks also, Dave, for your contribution to the P.F.

Hope you have fully recuperated from the by-bass operation.

See you in Vegas in October.

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI Thanks, Gordon, for keeping me posted on your change of addresses. See you in Vegas!

LANSDOWNE, PA A mass intention was performed for Father Stanley Brock at St. Philomenas Church in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, April 22, 1990.

DE LEON SPRINGS, FL Thanks much, Juanita Polk, for your continuing effort to have me change your address on the list. Sorry I haven't done it before, but I made it this time.

Hope to see you in Vegas!

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND Had a very nice note and quite an extensive catalogue of the publications from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I was inquiring about a specific book on their history, but it is not listed. Will have catalogue in Las Vegas for perusal.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA When this edition comes from the publisher this time, it is going to be a must for all 64'ers and their families!

How did you get liberated, Dad?

Roads to Liberation, revised second edition, will greatly expand on the first edition. Clarence Meltesen has done a great job.

It may be available by the time we meet in Las Vegas, but don't count on it. However, when it does come, make sure you get your copy. Clarence will tell you more at Vegas.

FAR HILLS, NJ It takes a long time to put a book together. The latest one comes from Joseph Frelinghuysen. Passages to Freedom is the liberation of a P.O.W. with a different perspective than most others. The book begins with Joe's stay in P.G. 21 at Chieti. Anyone who would like a copy of this book may send for it from the publisher: Sunflower University Press
1531 Yuma (Box 1009)
Manhattan, KS 66502
Price postpaid: \$17.95

Joe also said in his letter that David Westheimer is on a trip to Japan. He also said that David has a new movie out, "A Killer Among Us," as well as a new book on his Stalag vacation in "Chermamy."

Thanks, Joseph, for this information and I hope your sales jump!

Glad you'll be able to make it to Las Vegas. Will be glad to see you again.

PARADISE COVE, FL Interesting sidelights always show up from published articles. Col. Jack Van Vliet received a letter from the daughter of a Richard Francis Sheil, Captain, Royal Army Service Corps, who was in Oflag 9 A/Z at Rotenburg while we were there, before ^{our} going to Oflag 64. He was in his early 40's as he also served in WWI.

His daughter, Evelyn M. Lowe, lives in Canada. If anyone has any recollection of Captain Sheil, please contact directly:

Mrs. Evelyn M. Lowe
1400 Pine Avenue West
Montreal, Quebec H36-1B1
Canada

(postage: \$.30)

I have condensed the request for info on Captain Sheil and hope this is O.K.

Thanks much for the contribution to the P.F. Looking forward to seeing you in Vegas.

All of the information regarding Captain Sheil came as a result of the Katyn, "Readers' Digest" article by Rudolph Chelminski. Col. Van Vliet has already replied to Mrs. Lowe, but she will still need any input available from those who may read this Item. Don't let her down.

PHOENIX, AZ Somehow, a phone call came to me on July 11th from the Homocide Division of the Phoenix Police Department. It was Detective Richard Fuqua calling to find out if I had known a Gordon Phillips in Oflag 64. I do not have his name on my mailing list which I told him.

However, if anyone does know anything about a Gordon Phillips, please feel free to call Det. Richard Fuqua at the Phoenix Police Department. In the August "Ladies Home Journal" on page 104 is the story about Detective Fuqua and Gordon Phillips. Thanks for your efforts to help Richard Fuqua. I have also enclosed a more explanatory letter regarding Gordon Phillips.

COLUMBUS, OH Thanks, Stan Stetson, for your nice contribution to the P.F. Sorry we won't see you at the reunion. Atlantic City would have been great for you, but a three-day drive to Vegas wouldn't be too bad.

Sure would like to see you! Sorry to hear about Mrs. S' arthritis. It's no fun, I'm sure.

We have learned a lot from Col. Jack over recent years via video and supplemental talks by the Col. at our reunions. I'm sure he's glad it's all out in the open.

SWARTHMORE, PA Brief note from Curtis Jones with a nice check for the P.F. Am also looking forward to having a great time with him and his wife on the August trip to Schubin. Thanks for the contribution.

SEE YOU ALL IN LAS VEGAS ---

OCTOBER 11, 12, 13, 14

FLAMINGO HILTON

John F. Slack
Editor

The purpose of this list is to try to locate members of our group who have been on our list or who may have been mentioned in correspondence. PLEASE LOOK IT OVER CAREFULLY and then try to locate someone you remember or who 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. MANY THANKS. Your Editor.

NEED NEW ADDRESS

James M. Gilliersie
Wilmatic, CT 06226

Lt. Edward Baker
549 Hellman Street
Philadelphia, PA

Red Weigang

Ernest M. Gruenbert, M.D.
732 W. 168 Street
New York, NY 10032

Lt. John C. Crown

Lt. Edward B. Haney

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

Fred Sommers
115 Wroe Street
Dayton, OH

Clifford G. McKeon
7 Summer Road
Cambridge, MD

Edor Nelson
544 26th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Capt. John S. Rodda
1526 N.E. 24th Street
Portland, OR 97232

Capt. Henry Crellin
640 East Grand
Springfield, OH 45044

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

Jack A. Pontillitz
1730 Lyman Place, N.E.
Washington, DC
or
2115 Bennarrwiet Avenue
Rockford, IL

J. O'Neil
2604 Dundee

Lt. Charles J. Batton
USA Ret
23340 Koths Street
Inkster, MI 48141

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

NEED NEW ADDRESS

Lt. J. M. Lloyd
934 West Main Street
Norristown, PA

Capt. John R. Martin
Hotel Eagle 9
Eagle Pass, TX

Lt. Paul C. Wiley
29 Federal Street
S. Portland, ME

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

Bob Wernette

Mason Heimer

R. H. Wise

Vernon Burlingame

Paul Miller
1729 K Street
Lincoln, NE

Harvey A. Todd
1057 S. 21st
Decatur, IL

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

John Simms
P.O. Box 1500
Easley, SC

Bruce Nunnally

Lt. John D. Allardice
4 Willard Place
Hudson, NY 12534

Col. Max H. Gooler (USA Ret)
12703 Country Quest
San Antonio, TX 78216

Buford Johnson
47300 C Street, Apt. B
Hemet, CA 92344

James H. Mills
2828 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Donald L. May
General Delivery
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0099

NEW ADDITIONS OR
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Gordon C. Berg
546 Maitland Drive, G-34
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

James Betts
P.O. Box 532
Clifton, TX 76634

John W. Dobson
3130 Bermuda Village
Advance, NC 29926

William Fabian, Esq.
7856 Tomahawk Road
Overland Park, KS 66208-4659

Gus Ferris
3505 S.E. 4th Place
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Dr. Robert P. Fleege
615 Bayshore Drive, Apt. 105
Pensacola, FL 32507

John J. O'Connor
24 Coolidge Court
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Richard B. Parker
3317 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Dr. Walter S. Parks, Jr.
7406 Curly Leaf Cove
Austin, TX 78705

Juanita Polk
P.O. Box 32
De Leon Springs, FL 32130

Col. E. M. Robertson (USA Ret)
800 Oregon Street, Box 159
Sonoma, CA 95476

Ted Roggen
1800 Augusta Drive
Houston, TX 77057

Harold L. Tallman
1619 E. Schwartz Boulevard
Lady Lake, FL 32159

** OVER **

CHRISTMAS

Joy

A Greeting from Ike Franklin in Fort Worth, Texas at Christmas, 1989

At this time it seems appropriate that I should offer thanks to the good Lord for His watchcare over me this past year. As most of you know, I have had some rather serious health problems, but I can look around and see so many that are in far worse shape than I, that my particular complaints diminish almost to the vanishing point! Evidently, many of you have been mentioning my name in your prayers, so I sincerely thank you.

The Lord was good to me and let me make a trip to Oregon last spring, a trip to the Carolinas and Pennsylvania a little later, to Houston for the 36th Division reunion over the Labor Day weekend, and to San Diego for the Oflag 64 meeting in October. I enjoyed them all very much and was very sorry I was unable to attend the American Ex-POW convention at Niagara Falls. Perhaps the Lord will permit me to make it to Seattle for that one next year.

I did have a short term in the hospital in June, but I now seem to have the diabetes situation under control, as well as the high blood pressure. I must still change positions slowly, because of the orthostatic (fluctuations) condition.

My diet is simple. If I like it, I can't have it! I must consume approximately 2000 calories daily at specific times in order to keep my weight fairly close to its current 200 lb. level. I still don't have as much stamina as I would like, and about 50 feet is as far as I can walk.....I still require rather frequent cat-naps. I'm not complaining, merely reporting the status quo.

Every day I thank God for my family and friends. Without them it just wouldn't be worth the effort as I approach my octogenarian decade. However, I am still looking forward to seeing the 21st century roll around. I have stopped buying green bananas since they might not have time to ripen, but am still making plans.

May God bless and keep each of you in the very center of His will is my prayer to Him for you.

(over)



City of Phoenix
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Room 242

620 West Washington St
Phoenix, Arizona
85003-2187

July 11, 1990

Mr. John F. Slack
1314 Youngsford Road
Gladwyne, PA 19035

Dear Sir:

Reference your phone conversation with Detective Fuqua on July 11, 1990, it is requested a newsletter be forwarded to all former P.O.W.s involved with Oflag 64 German prisoner camps for the purpose of identifying a freelance writer/reporter by the name of Gordon Phillips. He is a white male, approximately 30 to 35 years old.

This person made contact with a murder victim, Jeanne Tovrea, in February 1988. He purportedly was writing a story about World War II German prisoner of war camps. Ms. Tovrea's deceased husband, Edward Tovrea, was held in such a prison during World War II.

The person who identified himself as Gordon Phillips has not been located by any of the writers guild and it is unknown if he exists.

If any former P.O.W. has been contacted by this person, it is requested that Detective Richard Fuqua be contacted at (602) 495-3656 or 262-6141.

Sincerely,

RUBEN B. ORTEGA
Police Chief

RULON K. LEE, Captain
General Investigations Bureau

rg

(over)