

Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed wire, towers and guards.
drawn by Jim Bickers

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

FALL 2003

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 2003

Bret and Lisa are, as usual, working hard on the reunion planning for next month @ MN.

We have included the program, registration form and some comments about the reunion as a refresher in case you lost your first copies of these things.

Note that Bret says they will have people in the lobby to answer questions and to be your helper for all questions

If you have a question before you leave home, you can contact Bret or Lisa at:
1/952-933-4570

PITTSBURGH, PA 2004

Jerry Alexis as usual is working hard on the reunion to be held in Pittsburgh in 2004.

He will be at Minneapolis and will answer all your questions then.

PUBLICATIONS

POSTAGE FUND DONORS (2003)

The Waters Story \$19.50
 My Tour of Russia \$5.00
 The Men of Oflag 64 \$ 20.00
 The Oflag 64 Director,' \$ 3.00
 Oflag 64 Audio Tape \$ 5.00
 Original Roster-O flag 64 \$10.00
 Tribute to TF Baum \$15.00
 Ham melburg Roster \$ 7.50
 Make check out to Oflag 64 PF and
 mail to the Editor.

In the Presence of Mine Enemies \$10.00
 Make check payable to and send to:
 Mrs. Rose Daniels
 5100 Sharon Road. Apt 603
 Charlotte. NC 28210-4720

Vic Kanners Diary---FREE
 Contact- Dave Kanners
 1141 Pine Ridge Court
 Rochester, MN 48306

Americans Behind the Barbed Wire-By Frank Diggs
 New Price....\$22.00 (includes shipping)
 Contact: Vandemere Press
 P.O. Box 5243
 Clearwater, FL 22205

Press Releases -----\$10.95
 Ted Roggen
 101 Westcott
 Houston, TX 77007

Pat Waters Jim Bates
 Linda Slack Herb Garris
 Mrs Hiram Wright Alan Dunbar
 Shirley Weintraub Nathaniel Hoskot
 Lester Edsall Lewis Lowe
 Jean Gever Reid Ellsworth*
 Tom Johnson Geo Juskalian IMO Jim Sherman*
 Don Waful IMO John Slack
 Ellen Warthen Mary Cupit
 Jonel Hill Bill Warthen
 Brad Bradford Sid Waldman
 Bob Cheatham
 Walter Parks
 Ormond Roberts
 Dave Kanners
 Paul Lampru
 Royal Lee
 Tony DeSanto
 Charles Wilkinson
 Chris Heisler
 George Juskalian* IMO John Slack
 Gordon Smith
 Art Bryant
 Irving Yarock
 Clementi Holder (IMO Boomer Holder
 LTG A.P. Clark
 J.J.Sims
 Jonel Hill

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 Pho: 952/933-4570

Regarding the reunion

We will have people at the registration desk to help anyone with a reservation, plan their open days or evening plans, what events are happening or place to visit. The registration desk will be open Wednesday and on Thursday from 8:00 to 2:00. It will then be moved to the hospitality room for the rest of the reunion. We will be able to help you book tickets, reservations, transportation, list of menus, concerts, movies, plays, theatre, Mall of America etc.

There was a list of some of the place to visit on the registration mailed or emailed to you. We will have a complete list of what is going on and where you may want to visit for Minneapolis. If you have any questions, please call me at 612-239-3881.

The tour of Fort Snelling will include a tour of a tank museum, tour of the old Cavalry Fort Snelling, which is located on a rocky bluff looking over the Mississippi River. We will then have a happy hour and dinner at the Officers Club at Fort Snelling.

The gangster tour is a tour of St Paul and it will tell the story of the 1920-30's when the St Paul was a hide out for the Mob when the heat was on in other cities. You will get a very good idea of what Minneapolis and St Paul are all about after the Fort Snelling and Gangster tours and staying downtown near the University of Minnesota and the Mississippi River.

Bret Job
Reunion Chairman

**OFLAG 64 REUNION 2003
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
ITINERARY**

Wednesday September 10th, 2003

Registration	1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Welcome Cocktail Reception	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday September 11th, 2003

Open Time	
Trip to Fort Snelling (Includes Tour of Fort Snelling & Dinner @ Officer's Club)	Depart 3:00 p.m.
Round Table Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Return to Hotel	9:30 p.m.

Friday September 12th, 2003

Breakfast Buffet (Business Meeting)	9:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Open Time	10:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Gangster Tour	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Open Time	

Saturday September 13th, 2003

Open Time	
Optional WWII Round Table – Task Force Baum (Located in Hotel Ballroom)	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Social Hour	5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Banquet Dinner @ Hotel	6:30 p.m.

Sunday September 14th 2003

Farewell Breakfast	9:00 a.m.
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REGISTRATION FORM

OFLAG 64 ANNUAL REUNION
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH—SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2003

NAME (AS DESIRED ON NAME TAG)	WIFE'S NAME (AS DESIRED ON NAME TAG)
OTHERS ATTENDING	OTHERS ATTENDING
YOUR ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
YOUR UNIT	PLACE & DATE OF CAPTURE

POINT OF LIBERATION (OFLAG 64, ON ROUTE, LUKENWALD, HAMMELBURG, MOOSBURG, NURNBURG, ODESSA)

DATE & TIME OF ARRIVAL	BY CAR	BY PLANE	EMAIL ADDRESS
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PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHECK FOR \$125.00 FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING MADE PAYABLE TO:
OFLAG 64 REUNION. REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL ITEMS ON ATTACHED ITINERARY.

REGISTRATION FEE ***** @ \$125.00 = \$ _____

MAIL REGISTRATION BY AUGUST 1, 2003 TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

OFLAG 64 REUNION '03
C/O BRET & LISA JOB
4240 TRAIL RIDGE LANE
MINNETONKA, MN 55345

HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE ON YOUR OWN—CALL TODAY!!

HOLIDAY INN METRODOME— MINNEAPOLIS, MN

1-800-448-DOME (3663)

**Mention Oflag 64 Reunion when making reservations for the \$93/night rate.
Reservations must be made by August 1, 2003 to guarantee rate and space.**

FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENING DINNERS, PLEASE MAKE AN ENTRÉE SELECTION:

THURSDAY EVENING DINNER	
BURGUNDY BEEF TIPS _____	(how many)
CHICKEN KIEV _____	(how many)
VEGETARIAN PASTA _____	(how many)

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET	
MN CHICKEN BREAST _____	(how many)
WALLEYE PIKE ALMONDINE _____	(how many)
PORK MEDALLIONS _____	(how many)

** IF INTERESTED IN SPEAKING TO UNIV. OFMN STUDENTS, PLEASE CHECK HERE _____

MAIL CALL

Arthur Bryant, Lakeland, FL- writes to say he enjoyed the reunion in Columbus, but not many people know that the Lowes flew to Florida to take Art with them to Columbus. Art isn't too bad physically, but his eyesight is poor, and he can't travel alone. If anyone from the Florida area is going to Minneapolis, why not give Art a call to see if he's able to go along. He's at 1974 Long Point Drive. Incidentally, where did the monicker "Honey Bear" come from. There must be a story behind that. Many thanks for your donation to the Postage Fund.

Mrs. Randolph (Clementi) Holder, Athens, GA. sends her regards and check for the Postage Fund in memory of "Boomer". We all miss him. Hope Clementi can make it to Minneapolis.

J. J. Sims, Easley, SC-writes that that he's another one whose busy with various 'ologists,. Join the crowd. He enjoys The Item, but can't get to reunions. His crowd, those still with us, were Royal Lee, Bob Cheatham, and Ormond Roberts. He and his wife, Emily, were intrigued by the name Lt. White Turkey. I (IY) never heard of him. He was captured in the summer of 1944 and supposedly spent some time at Of lag 64. He's not on the latest roster that I have. Anyone know anything about him? I'm sure we'd all like to know. Many thanks for donation to the P.F.

Jonel Hill, Pasadena CA (No letter but a check for the Postage Fund). Frankly, I (IY) don't recall the name, and I can't find him on the roster. Anyone have any information on him?

Anne Hoskot Kreutzer, Woodridge, VA— Anne sent a check for her father, Col Nathaniel Hoskot (Ret). He's 92 and was in Of lag 64 from about August 1944. He enjoys reading The Item. Coming in that late, he must have been up on the hill. I think those buildings were numbered in the "7" series. He's on our roster, and I'm sure he'd welcome hearing from old friends.

James Bates, Brentwood ,TN, another one who sent a check with no note. I guess they are trying to put me out of business. Thanks for the Postage Fund donation.

Herb Garris, Pinehurst, NC, another one, but if I have the right one, I think he spoke to Bob on the telephone. Anyway, thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund. The signature reminds me of the doctor who was giving a lecture and he couldn't read his own notes so he said "is there a pharmacist in the house?"

Alan Dunbar, Las Vegas, NV-Alan & Lilo have had an attack of "the Golden Years."They are busy taking care of each other full time and will miss Minneapolis. If possible, maybe next year. Over the years, not only have they been faithful attendees, but Alan has been a source of authentic knowledge affecting all of us. I hope that anyone going to Las Vegas to throw their money away will stop in to see them. It will be a happier reunion if you stop before you lose your money. Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

A. P. Clark, Colorado Springs, CO- Several years back when we had our reunion Colorado Springs, General Clark was Commandant of the Air Force Academy. He himself was a POW but never got to Of lag 64. He was shot down in Africa. As a graduate of West Point class of 1936, he knew some of our people like Waters, Alger, Goode, etc. He has established a file at the Air Force Academy about Of lag 64 and watches our ITEM for anything historically worthwhile and adds it to the file. Many thanks for your contribution to our Postage Fund.

Here's something for your grandchildren (borrowed from Readers Digest) **Nancy Reagan** tells the story of how **President Ronald Reagan** was once challenged by a college student who said it was impossible for Reagan's generation to understand his. "You grew up in a different world" the student said. "Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers...". Taking advantage of a pause in the student's litany, Reagan said, "Your right. We didn't have those things when we were young. We invented them."

Mary Cupit, Mystic, CT, writes that she will not be able to travel to the reunion, but she does enjoy the Item and sends along a donation. Thanks, Mary

MAIL CALL

Lt Col Gordon Smith, Baton Rouge, LA sends along a donation to the Postage Fund. (A special Note from Bob Thompson to Gordon.. Gordon, we miss you at the reunions and wish you could make one in the near future. Our good friend's wife, Jack Reynolds, now lives in Tulsa, near us ,and we see her quite often. We were in Tomball ,Texas a few weeks ago and went by to see Jack's son Steven and saw that red Jaguar convertible you told me about.)

Reid Ellsworth, Chandler, Az sent along a donation the Postage Fund to Joe, but sent no message. So, we thank you for the donation , but next time send along a short note.

George Juskalian, Centreville, VA, sends a donation to the Postage Fund in memory of John Slack and Jim Sherman. These men were very special to the Oflag 64 family and we all miss them.

Lewis Lowe, Chandler, AZ. Lewis sends along a donation and expresses his appreciation for the Item newsletter. He doesn't say whether he will be at the reunion, but we sure hope he and Janet make it. With Charlie along you can go around the world, so come on! Thanks for the donation to the Postage Fund.

Alexander (Bud) Bolling, Dallas Texas, writes that he is looking forward to the reunion in MN. It is his first reunion and he will renew friendships that he made about 60 years ago. Bud was a Lt. at Hammelburg and was one of the few that made it back to the US lines after liberation by the Task Force Baum. He and several of his classmates at West Point in the Class of '43 were at Hammelburg at the same time. Bud is trying to get some of them to come to the reunion at MN.

Roy and Helen Chapell, Texas, write that they are recuperating at the Respite Center at :

Eden Brooke
1730 Woodshead Court
The Woodlands, Texas. 77380
Pho: 832/813-0281

They have also rejuvenated their e-mail machine and are accepting messages at... rjhclouv@tvec.net
They also state they they will not be able to attend the reunion in MN

Joe Seringer, Wooster OH, (our treasurer), writes that he is recovering from his heart operation and is making plans to be at Minneapolis

Don & Lucy Lussenden,Livonia, MI write that Don has made an excellent recovery from his operation and they plan to be at Minneapolis in Sept. That is super news!

Julie Gionfriddo, Denver, CO (**Jack Rathbone's** daughter) , states that Jack is making a slow recovery but will not be able to be at Minneapolis, but maybe next time at Pittsburgh. Jack had a rough summer after falling down some stairs and spending time in the hospital.

A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

Bill Warthen has finished his accounting for the money in and out at the reunion in Columbus last fall. He previously sent in a check for \$5,000 and a check for \$1,000 and now sends in a check for \$487.69 which closes out the account. He made a contribution to the Habitat for Humanity and to the Ft. Benning Museum for services they rendered during and after the reunion.

Robert Galloway advises that another showing of the Oflag 64 Documentary that he produced will be shown on PBS this fall sometime around the first of November. You should contact your local PBS Station as to the exact day and time of the showing.

A letter from Peter Domes, LTC German Army, says that the officials at the Hammelburg Camp are thinking about removing one of Abe Baum's shot up tanks from the German Army Target area and placing it in the area where the Task Force was wiped out and place a bronze plaque on it describing what it is and what happened to it.

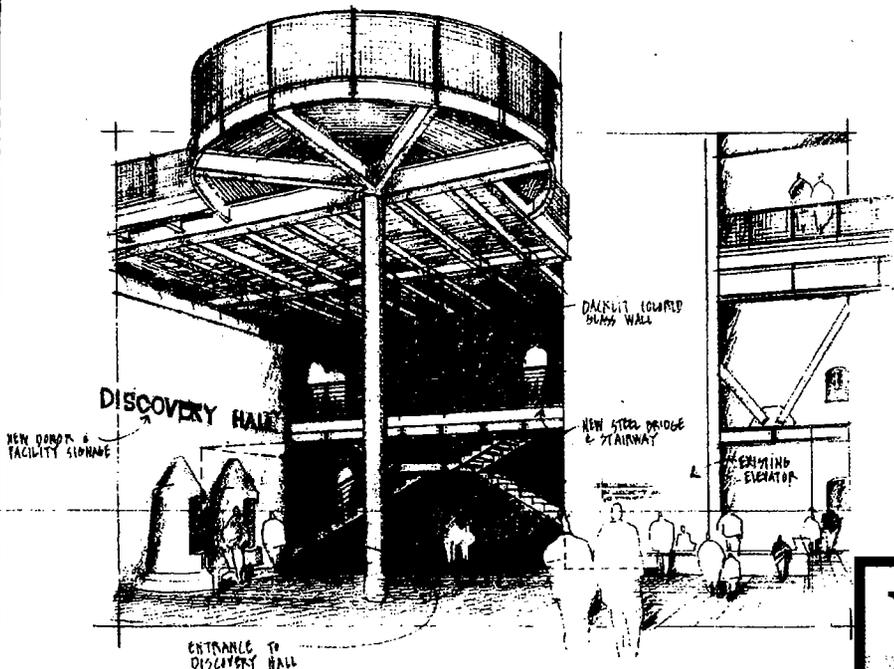
D-DAYS

America's World War II Museum



Volume 4, Number 2

Summer 2003



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Discovery Hall

The National D-Day Museum is taking the first step in the implementation of a major expansion plan. The Museum has contracted with the New Orleans architectural firm of Eskew+Dumez+Ripple to design a new facility, Discovery Hall. "This first phase of the expansion will address two critical needs of the Museum," stated Nick Mueller, President & CEO of the Museum, "group and student tour welcome area and special exhibition gallery space." Discovery Hall will be located immediately to the north of, and adjacent to, the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion. In addition to the group orientation hall, the four-story, 10,800 sq-ft facility will house a special exhibitions gallery, meeting rooms, an oral history and learning resource center that will be the repository of the Museum's collection of personal (oral and video) histories, staff offices and a catering kitchen. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2004 with anticipated completion in December 2004. Construction costs for Discovery Hall are estimated at over \$2.5 million.

Updates on groundbreaking and the construction progress of Discovery Hall will be reported in future editions of *D-Days*.

V JUNE 6, 2003

It's not too late to buy Victory Ball tickets. June 6, 2003, is the 59th anniversary of the day the liberation of occupied Europe began and the 3rd anniversary of the opening of The National D-Day Museum.

Join us for a memorable event at The Fairmont New Orleans. To reserve your place, or for more information about the Victory Ball, please call (504) 527-6012 ext. 261.

The highlight of this year's Victory Ball will be the unveiling and presentation of The National D-Day Museum's American Spirit Award. General Norman Schwarzkopf will present the award, given posthumously to Dr. Stephen E. Ambrose.



Proceeds from the Victory Ball support D-Day Museum exhibitions, educational programs and research.

THE *Fairmont*
NEW ORLEANS

The Fairmont New Orleans
is a generous supporter of this year's event.
Call 800-441-1414 for your special "D-Day" rate.

Revisiting TASK FORCE BAUM AND THE HAMMELBURG RAID

On March 27, 1945, Capt. Abe Baum set off for a risky mission: He was to lead a very a small task force, to be known as Task Force Baum, on a secret mission to Camp OFLAG XIII-B and liberate it. The camp was near Hammelburg, Germany, 50 miles behind enemy lines. General Patton himself personally delivered the order.



14th Armored Division Tanks liberate the POW camp at Hammelburg.

Fifty-eight years later, two of the task force members, Abe Baum and then radioman, Bob Zawada, retraced their route to Hammelburg, along with a group of D-Day Museum volunteers and friends who travel together and call themselves "The Happy Few." On this trip to Hammelburg, Baum and Zawada were met by town dignitaries and historians offering catered receptions and requesting autographs.

In the end the operation was a disaster. Despite some resistance; the task force did reach Hammelburg and liberate the camp. But there were far too few vehicles for all the prisoners, most of whom were exhausted and starving. Some had to march alongside or stay behind. Then, during the return, the regrouped German army attacked the group. Out of roughly 320 task force members and 200 freed prisoners, about a dozen soldiers and 20 prisoners made it back to safety. The rest were killed or captured. As it turns out, General Patton's son-in-law was one of POWs to be freed but was wounded and unable to be transported.

They met townspeople who as children had witnessed the invading Americans. The group was escorted by Lt. Col. Domes, a German soldier who has done a great deal of research and has become an authority on the raid. He has built a website based on his research at <http://taskforcebaum.de>. Abe Baum has written a book about his experiences leading the raid, entitled *Raid*, and is available at The National D-Day Museum store.



Pictured on Hill 427: The Happy Few with Abe Baum (row 2, 5th from left) and Bob Zawada (row 2, 7th from left) and German hosts Artur Hurrein (row 3, far left) and Georg Schlereth (row 2, 6th from left) who as children witnessed the raid as it went through their town; Philipp Domas (last row, 3rd from left), son of historian and trip lecturer, Lt. Col. Peter Domas (not pictured); Hanns-Helmut Schnebel (row 2, 3rd from right), Librarian of the Infantry School; and Captain Bschor (rear, 4th from right), Commander of Hammelburg Military Training Area (formerly Camp OFLAG XIII-B). Hill 427 was where the American task force was ultimately attacked and scattered.

The STARS and STRIPES

573-568-2055



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WEB PAGE

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Two current exhibits at
The Star & Stripes Museum



"I want to express my thanks to you for keeping us all informed with *The Stars and Stripes*."

— General H. Norman Schwarzkopf

"This newspaper should be the equivalent of a soldier's hometown newspaper, with no censorship of its contents, other than for security."

— General Dwight D. Eisenhower

"I do not believe that any one factor could have done more to sustain the morale of the A.E.F.* than *The Stars and Stripes*."

— General John J. (Blackjack) Pershing

*American Expeditionary Forces

HOURS:

Closed Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri.

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sat.

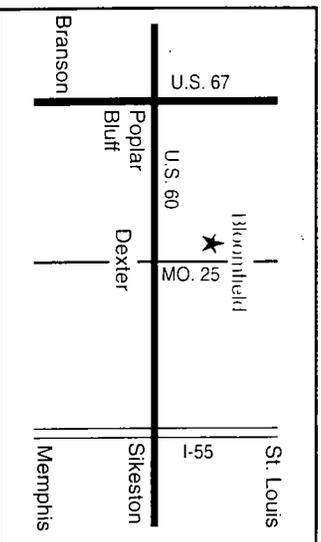
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Sun.

Or By Appointment

573-568-2055

Closed:

New Years, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas



Welcome Home

"Stars and Stripes"

daily newspaper of the U.S. Armed Forces



The STARS and STRIPES
Museum/Library
BLOOMFIELD, MISSOURI

birthplace of the

"Stars and Stripes"

November 9, 1861

Every Road Leads Home, Jule C. Spach, 1244 Arbor Road, Winston Salem, N. C. 27104, 1996, \$ 21.95.

This is an incredible story which Bob Cheatham, a fellow POW of mine at Oflag 64, shared with me. It emphasized the fact that a POW's life does change. This reviewer has yet to meet one who underwent such an experience somewhat like this portrays.

It all begins as he was a student at VMI which he left to enter the USAAF and become a B-24 pilot at the age of 18 years. Flew out southern Italy at a base there near Bari, and on one run was shot down and became a POW and was sent to Stalg Luft III. He subsequently went on a forced march in January 1945 and was repatriated at Moosburg by the drive of Patton into Stalag VII.

Upon his return home he decided to go Georgia Tech to finish his degree in chemical engineering. Before graduation he faced a decision to enter the missionary field. The Presbyterian Church trained him and sent him and his new wife south to the jungle forest of Northern Brazil. His success as a teacher and soon an accomplished linguist in Portuguese was achieved. His care and concern for his instructors and the students as well were amazing. It was with his Christian devotion and faith that led him to seek other opportunities under the most primitive and trying conditions.

After many years in the forbidding jungle venue he worked with the Brazilian government in a literacy program to teach the poor and neglected citizen. Along with a Food Program which led to an almost revolutionary way of life for them. Then before his return home he was nominated as the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of the USA, and won the election by a small margin. It is the highest office in that church. And he handled it very well with his vast training and experience in Brazil.

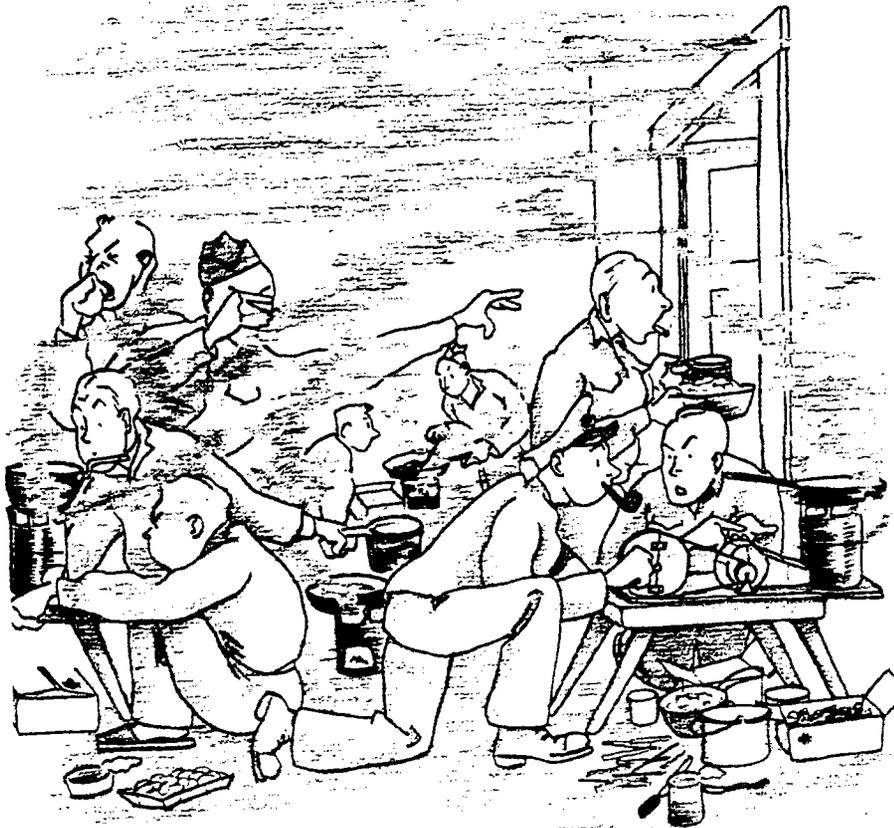
The story of service did not end after the successful year as the Moderator and he and his family returned to his home town of Winston Salem and led the development of Arbor Acres a near senior citizens home community. What a joy it was for me to speak to him and to review the vast achievements of service of this fine person. My congratulations and best wishes.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert L. Garris

REMEMBER ?



MAKING A "SMOKEY JOE" FROM A "KLIM" CAN



USING THE STOVES IN THE "SMOKE HOLE"

These drawings are from a book
"DIARY OF A KRIEGIE"
by ED Beattie-
UPI War correspondent