

Commentary of trip to Szubin, Poland  
Cindy and Glenn Burgess  
(Daughter and son-in-law of Kriegy Wilbur Sharpe)

Almost two years ago our family made contact with Dr. Mariusz Winiecki, a resident of Szubin, Poland, through a letter written to Wilbur Sharpe ( my father) inquiring about Oflag 64. Dad, at first, was overwhelmed with the number of questions posed to him in the letter and was puzzled as to why there was interest in his incarceration at Oflag 64. We began the process, as father and daughter, to answer Mariusz' questions via e-mail and Skype sessions, and through this effort we understood the intense interest of Mariusz regarding Oflag 64.

Mariusz, as a young boy, passed the site of Oflag 64 on his way to school and often wondered about the history of the location. As he became an adult and an accomplished academic, he pursued his curiosity by inquiring within his community and subsequently searched and found the Oflag 64 website. Through this website, he was able to acquire information on the surviving Kriegies and thus began sending letters to a number of the survivors.

As a result of this connection with Mariusz, we have learned a great deal about life in the prison camp. Mariusz' passion for learning as much as possible regarding Oflag 64 and sharing his findings with the community is commendable. The Kriegies and families of the Kriegies owe a debt of gratitude to Mariusz. He has not only tapped the memories of my father, in particular, but has enlightened our family to life in Szubin over 70 years ago. Our interest in seeing Szubin was piqued and we planned our trip to see as much of Poland as possible. We, of course, arranged our trip around Mariusz' university schedule as our primary focus was to visit Szubin and learn as much as possible.

Our trip began in Gdansk, Poland, continued to Bydgoszcz, Szubin, and Warsaw and ended in Krakow. Of course our stay in Szubin was emotional, memorable and enlightening. We were greeted at the abandoned train station where the Kriegies arrived via Bydgoszcz. We met the Principal of the Reform School, Wiesław Guziński, which is located on the site of the Oflag 64 prison camp (and the exact grounds of the location of the Little Theater) and were given quite a thorough tour of the grounds. We also met Tomasz Kmiec, the instructor to the young men, who designed and erected the scale model of the camp. Mariusz asked a good friend, Agnieszka Jakielek, to accompany us as an interpreter. What a delightful woman. We enjoyed her company but Mariusz speaks beautiful English! We could write volumes regarding our trip but know that space in the *Item* is limited. We welcome any contact with those interested in our trip.

Please contact us at [burgessgl@verizon.net](mailto:burgessgl@verizon.net).