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Mr. Bob Thompson
7448 E. 68th Place
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Dear Bob,

I haven't communicated much, but that is no measure of my many, many thoughts of "64" and my old friends. Unfortunately, the lists of TAPS grows rapidly these days and that is sad indeed.

Interesting thoughts of Irv Yarock's of Oflag 64 being used as a POW camp before "we" arrived June 1943, also the article on page 4 of the Post item by Bob Rivers. Wonders never cease!

Cannot make Atlanta / Columbus for the reunion as we will be back in Leland, Michigan then. Caroline and I had a shortened vacation there this July when she got pneumonia and it's taken a long time to recover, so we'll go back there to "finish our summer".

Another interesting article in this latest Item is Richard B. Parker's letter and excerpts from Major Gen Deane's book, "The Strange Alliance". I suppose everyone has his own "escape" experiences, but his quotes state the 3 men, Colley, Gruenberg and Dimmling escaping detention from the NKVD enroute to Moscow brought back experiences quite similar to 3 of us. Cory, Murphy and Gaich. Cory, Fabian, Murphy and Robinson hid in our tunnel at Oflag 64 January 20 -21 until the camp was evacuated. We along with others who were left in the local hospital then made our way to Warsaw / Remberton. Robinson was lost to illness in local hospital, Fabian somewhere else, and Murphy and I picked up Gaich to continue "our escape" throughout South S. E. Poland always trying to find a way to Moscow! We walked, rode sleds, hay wagon, trucks, you name it - finally arriving in LVOV where the Russians promptly put us in the local jailhouse. An inquisitive newspaper reporter, Vladmir Belayev who had covered our Navy and others in Murmansk interviewed us and was easily convinced that we were valid Americans and not German spies as the Russians contended. He was assisted in this by a Jewish lady who had taught English at Krakow University and who had escaped detention when the Nazi's rounded up Jews in the area, putting them to death in the LVOV sewers. In any case, the 2 of them convinced the Commandant (a 1st Lt. NKVD) to release us to the care of the local Russian General. The general had been a Military attaché in Washington before the war. He saw that we had a good room in the main hotel, hot baths, food, etc. At one point his entertainment of us was interrupted by a phone call saying 4 - 5 Americans were in the hotel lobby. Thinking our stay would then be fortified by more escaped POW we made out way for a reunion. To our total surprise these were

Air Force personnel from Poltava in the Ukraine seeking to recover shot down B-17 crews and Norden Bomb sights in the area. After 2 - 3 days and much haggling with the Russians, they flew us to Poltava Air Base (1500 miles east of LVOV). Next day we were flown to Teheran, outfitted with new uniforms at the Persian Gulf Command and into Miami by air. Looking back, except for a small few days as guest of the NKVD in LVOV, we made of trip home a bit faster than those who came through Odessa, including Colley (who was captured same place and time as I was, and whom I of course knew) Dimmling and Gruenberg. We 3 arrived in Miami February 28, 1945! Murphy (Hill T. "Spud" Murphy) committed suicide after the war. Fabian (Bill) and Robinson (Henry H.) both came to our 50th reunion in Louisville, which I hosted. I think we had 185 (including some wives). No one seems to have heard of or from Peter Gaich who was captured in March 1944 near Cassino, Italy. Being of Serb/Croat heritage, he acted as interpreter for "Spud" Murphy and me on our trek through Poland. Bill Fabian still lives in South Texas, I think and Henry Robinson is South Carolina.

The forgoing is only sketchy as not many friends of that era are left who even remember such events or even care, but the excerpt from Major Gen Deanes book, "The Strange Alliance" triggers this short response.

Cordially,



William R. Cory

P.S. I really only meant to ask you to send me two (2) prints of Bickers drawing of our camp (which Jim tells me is a really good rendition) and to accept a long overdue Oflag 64 Postal Fund contribution.