

EXTRA THE Oflag DAILY BULLETIN EXTRA

Issue 3

June 2023

Welcome

We have reached a milestone in our mission to commemorate the history of the POW camps of Szubin. In this issue of our newsletter, we are excited to bring you news about the progress of our first exhibition: the POW Tin Store.

From 1943-1945, the Oflag 64 POWs used this small building to stockpile and ration a portion of the lifesaving food tins that came in their Red Cross parcels. In 2022, thanks to your financial contributions to the U.S. Friends of Oflag 64, the Foundation renovated this original camp building.

When we founded our organizations in 2018, we had originally planned to build a museum on the site of Szubin's last remaining POW brick barracks. By January 2020, with the financial support of the town of Szubin, a local architect had completed a preliminary design. The cost of construction would have been around \$2M for the two-story museum and a memorial garden. Regrettably, the compounding inflationary effects of the two-year COVID shutdown, followed by the war in Ukraine, stalled the town's ability to finance this project.

The Foundation pivoted, just as the men of Oflag 64 did when the Germans threatened to take away their tin food reserves. Foundation President, Dr. Mariusz Winiecki, worked with local officials, and created a new opportunity in a different original building. We renovated the Tin Store with new electrical, plumbing, flooring, climate control, and security.

Next, the Foundation worked with a museum designer to create layout, lighting, and displays customized to our unique assortment of artifacts that would tell our camps' little-known history. The 500-square foot Tin Store will bring a gem of a museum to the POW Camps of Szubin. The

cost will be much lower, around \$130,000, and the time to construct will take only months. The Tin Store will provide us with an exquisite venue for exhibitions and tours, a safe location to preserve our artifacts, and a workspace for our Foundation and visiting researchers.

Among several tour groups over the past year, the U.S. National World War II Museum visited our site last summer and will be returning again this summer. Once our museum is completed, imagine the increased number of visitors with whom we can share this remarkable history.

Your financial assistance is essential to embarking on this next phase. Inside this issue, you will learn more about its design and how you can donate at [friendsofotlag64.org/donate](https://www.friendsofotlag64.org/donate). Thank you for your support.



The POW Tin Store with German guard, circa 1941

HOW DO YOU DESIGN A MUSEUM?

Here are excerpts from our conversation about the design process with Gosia Gliwińska, the exhibit designer for the POW Tin Store.

GG: Crucial at the beginning is cooperation and dialog with the curator and the team: what story will the exhibition tell and how. Falling in love with the historical artifacts, or at least respect for them, is equally important. They are precious to the donors who share them and are the real witnesses of the past.

Gliwińska measured and studied the space, while Foundation historian Dr. Jan Daniluk began his outline of the exhibit narrative.

GG: The most difficult part for me as designer is the conceptual first phase - where to fit what, so that the narration in the exhibit is logical, clear and consequential. And, at the Tin Store specifically, we did not want the challenges of our small space to force us to omit an essential story or artifact.

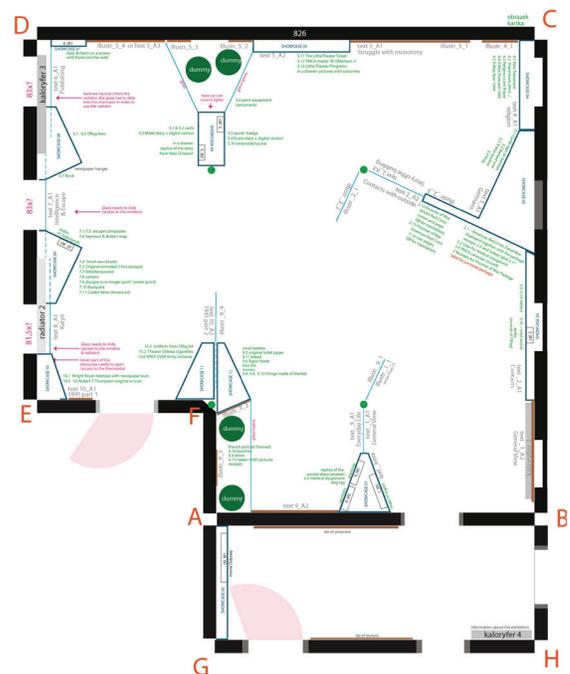
From her hometown of Gdańsk, Gliwińska put the design specifics to paper. For six months she met weekly over Zoom with Daniluk, Dr. Mariusz Winięcki, Warsaw researcher and Foundation translator Kasia Kacprzak, and from the U.S., Susanna Bolten Connaughton, V.P. of the Foundation, who is writing a book about her father's Oflag 64 experience. The team discussed layout and deliberated over the most appropriate artifacts to convey the history.

GG: Every single artifact is different, so we had to discuss each showcase separately. The artifacts and the Tin Store interior should play the main roles in telling the fate of the prisoners, so I am trying to keep the showcases and design as minimalistic as possible. At the same time, they must be produced from good quality materials with good lights and components to display the exhibits in an attractive way.

Visitors to the Tin Store will be welcomed with a short video of Oflag 64 veterans recounting their experiences. Glass cases will take the viewer on a journey from 1939-1945, including their arrivals, day-to-day life, and clandestine operations,

surrounded by quotes from their primary sources etched on the walls. Visitors will put on headphones to listen to an original recording of the Oflag 64 Glee Club, pull out drawers to read an issue of the POWs' camp newspaper or a letter, or stop to study the mannequins wearing original POW "uniforms."

GG: I am astonished how brilliant and talented the POWs were. Working on this project, I am paying my respects. I am glad to have the opportunity to become acquainted with the men through their stories, personal belongings, drawings, and recordings that we will be presenting in the exhibition.



Preliminary layout for the POW Tin Store.



Our POWs' journals provide essential accounts of their experiences.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF OFLAG 64

June 6, 2023 will mark the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the initial contingent of 35 American officers to Oflag 64 in Szubin. Pictured is a scan of the POWs' original June 6, 1943 "Morning Report" discovered by one of our researchers at the National Archives and Records Administration earlier this year. On June 9, 1943, an additional 149 officers arrived at the camp. By January 1945, the camp population reached almost 1,500 POWs.

Remarks for MORN		
On June 6, 1943 at 11:20 A.M., Thurt. Eve. American...		
Officers listed below arrived at Altburgund after unloading via...		
proceeded to march about one mile to our Camp Area Oflag 21B		
1) Col. Thomas D. Drake #164 0-15314	20) 1st Lt. Ralph E. Crowl #105 0-129997	
2) 1st Lt. John A. Waters #161 0-18481	21) 1st Lt. William E. Gust #176 0-129198	
3) 1st Lt. James D. Hagen #159 0-19848	22) 1st Lt. Robert L. Hickin #188 0-129487	
4) 1st Lt. Lewis G. Goussier #181 0-21617	23) 1st Lt. James W. Banker #185 0-147925	
5) 1st Lt. Harold D. Curtis #182 0-21849	24) 1st Lt. Frank H. Trapp, Jr. #178 0-128839	
6) 1st Lt. Paul C. Jacobs #183 0-23776	25) 1st Lt. George W. Rogers #179 0-1297830	
7) Capt. Frederick S. Smith #184 0-22834	26) 1st Lt. E. O. Ward #170 0-1294572	
8) Capt. Tony Lumpkin #185 0-24531	27) 1st Lt. B. R. Drennon #187 0-129442	
9) Capt. Harold W. Hines #186 0-28879	28) 1st Lt. John R. Carpenter #119 0-128785	
10) 1st Lt. George A. Condit #177 0-128892	29) 1st Lt. Robert F. Deasmi #188 0-128195	
11) 1st Lt. Cecil W. Barrows #178 0-129182	30) 1st Lt. Robert J. Gelle #162 0-128497	
12) 1st Lt. Ed. L. Green #189 0-207851	31) 1st Lt. Jimmy Waldman #172 0-129852	
13) 1st Lt. Henry G. Perry #180 0-22622	32) 1st Lt. George M. Muehlbauer #201 0-1288477	
14) 1st Lt. Mc. Dougherty #181 0-25191	33) 1st Lt. Walter C. Stotts #191 0-116760	
15) 1st Lt. L. L. Jirik #182 0-12822	34) 1st Lt. Robert Young #186 0-128183	
16) 1st Lt. Art Corvini #183 0-128672	Enroute To Oflag 21B from Elbe Station near...	
17) 1st Lt. Norman T. Carter #184 0-128690	Officers on night of June 5-6 made an escape near Posen...	
18) 1st Lt. Edward Beckinsky #200 0-261022	From The Train, 1st Lt. Arden, S.M., 1st Lt. Dickman, W.G.,...	
19) 1st Lt. Edgar A. Schuber #202 0-128775	On June 6, 1943, 1st Lt. Robert Young was killed...	
20) 1st Lt. Clarence Flink #204 0-77434	Suffering from wounds incurred Jan 21, 1943, shortly killed...	
	South of Tarnis was Taken To The Camp Hospital...	
	At Welesheim	

POWs' June 6, 1943 Morning Report. National Archives & Records Administration.

Captain Tony Lumpkin is number 8 on the scan of this remarkable military document from the camp. In his published diary, *Captured Yesterday*, Oflag 64 POW Captain Tony Lumpkin wrote his impressions as he rode on the train to Szubin that June day 80 years ago:

The country is still very flat and has many buildings which look like grain elevators. Also noticed a peat bog in this area. We finally get to Altburgund (Schubin, Poland), where we started a new camp – 21B (later renamed Oflag 64). There was a group of Russian G. I.'s as POWs there. Tonight, they sang, and their singing was very good. We are quartered in a large building that must have been a school at one time, as there are barracks rooms on the end and administrative cubicles between the large rooms.

Friends of Oflag 64 launched a fundraising campaign in March 2023 to honor this historic 80th anniversary. This campaign is an opportunity to be part of preserving history and educating future generations on the sacrifices made by the American POWs. The funds will be used to complete the POW Tin Store exhibition. We sincerely thank those who have already donated almost \$24,000 since March. Please help us reach our goal of \$100,000 by September 1, 2023.

To support this endeavor, please access the Donate button at: www.friendsofotlag64.org/donate or send a check to: Friends of Oflag 64 – 12768 Turberville Lane, Oak Hill, VA 20171. We thank you!

FROM NEW ORLEANS TO SZUBIN

Descendants of ex-POW Lt. Wilbur Sharpe, the Burgess family, visited the National World War II Museum in New Orleans in December of 2022. They enjoyed the museum's impressive breadth of exhibits, and also met with Kim Guise, the Senior Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs. Ms. Guise specializes in the museum's POW artifacts. This visit to the museum also gave us a greater understanding of where our museum will fit into the overall telling of the history: to provide a rare and close examination of this portion of the conflict.

The POW Tin Store is the first piece of that in-depth look, where visitors can dive into the details and view artifacts donated by the Oflag 64 community. Thank you to our Friends of Oflag 64 Artifacts Committee, chaired by Dave Stewart, for their dedication to making the POW Tin Store possible. And, thank you to the National World War II Museum for your hospitality and support.



Friends of Oflag 64

MISSION: Friends of Oflag 64 supports the Polish-American Foundation by fundraising, collecting artifacts, publicizing and promoting the Museum of POWs in Szubin, so that the history of the POW camp in Szubin and the courageous Polish citizens who assisted them will be preserved for generations to come.

[Friendsofotlag64.org](http://www.friendsofotlag64.org)

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Cindy Sharpe Burgess, Chairman



The staff of "Headlines by the AP," (l-r) 1st Row: Leonard Feldman, Gerald Long, Seymour Bolten. 2nd Row: Richard Rossbach, Larry Allen. Photo taken January 1944 at Oflag 64. Photo courtesy of Susanna Bolten Connaughton.



Polish-American Foundation

for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin

MISSION: The Foundation contributes to the knowledge of World War II by studying and commemorating the experiences of Allied prisoners-of-war. In addition to the history and operations of the German POW camps, its projects focus on the thousands of POWs who the Germans incarcerated in Szubin, Poland, and the brave Polish citizens who assisted those prisoners. Its cornerstone project is the creation of a museum in Szubin at the original site of one of the camp's barracks.

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[donate to Polish-American Foundation](#) (via Friends of Oflag 64)

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Mariusz Winiecki, President



The Oflag 64 POWs hand-lettered this masthead for their daily news-sheet. U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center. Photo Susanna Bolten Connaughton.