

Swiss Internees Association
PO. Box 1453
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THE SWISS INTERNEE

October, 1993
Issue #46

Glenn Martin, Donald W. Anderson, Gerald E. Landry

*Note: All names In Memoriam are not members. Most names are reported as deceased when located.
Member names will be underlined.*

*We gave thanks to our
Heavenly Father as we remembered our
Comrades and the presentation of
Memorials in their Honor.*

*May we always be aware of His
presence in our lives.
Amen.*

LEGISLATION

HR2574 Adjudication Procedure Revisions — Hearing was postponed.

HR67 — 50 percent Disability for POWs — eight cosponsors, no Senate action.

HR2062 — 100 percent Disability for POWs — 10 cosponsors, no Senate action.

HR786 — Disability compensation protected from IRS, 29 cosponsors.

April 9th to be Ex-POW Recognition Day. Passed the House July 13, passed Senate July 21, sent to President July 28th.

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460	Francis Scarbrough
461	Donald MacMullen

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462 Loren Merritt
463 Raymond Warns
464 John Veldhuizen

NOTE BAG

"I have a hard time realizing I've returned to Switzerland and had such a wonderful time." "What a picture perfect return to Switzerland. Thank You." "We enjoyed Colorado Springs and Howard and Gloria Casey's hospitality." "We were intrigued by the USAF Museum and Thank Gen. Kelly for a nice ceremony."

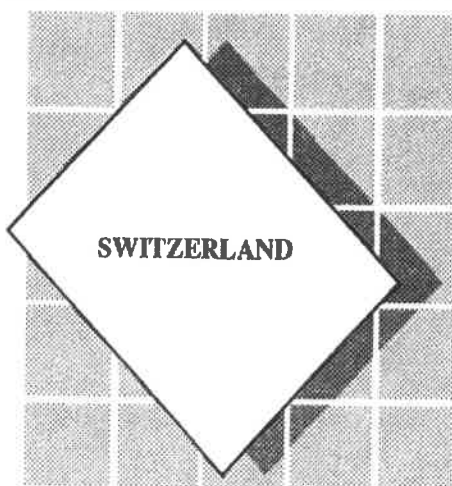
USAF ACADEMY, USAF MUSEUM, AND SWISS TOUR REPORT

USAF ACADEMY

Howard Casey tells about a very nice ceremony presenting Our Plaque to the Academy. An Air Force Captain and Colonel and William Hanchey, Chief of Memorials accepted the plaque which is on the cemetery wall. Don and Frances Sellars from Massachusetts were the "travelers" to attend.

USAF MUSEUM

Major General William Kelly USAF (Ret) reported that Col. Upstrom, Museum Director joined the group at Our Memorial site for the wreath laying ceremony. Patrick Kirkwood, Grammar School 1st Place winner in our Essay Contest, accompanied his grandparents and was included in the ceremony. He was pleased and awed. Thursday evening Gen. Kelly hosted a dinner at the Hope Hotel. Friday evening dinner was held at the Wright-Patterson AFB Officers Club. Guy Earle who had traveled from Georgia and was the "distance traveler" to attend.



We were in Camelot, it only rained at night and fog was gone by 9 a.m.

Enroute, our Swissair Captain announced that WW II B-24 and B-17 pilots, navigators, bombardiers and gunners who were interned in Switzerland were aboard. He cited that we were returning to commemorate events of 50 years ago. A "grease job" landing at Kloten was experienced.

We rested the remainder of the arrival day. That evening we were joined for dinner by Col. Werner Dudli, Swiss AF (Ret) who gave us a "Welcome" talk as he did in 1987. Jean-Pierre Wilhelm was able to join us after dinner.

Some cruised the Zurichsee, visited Uetliberg or other Zurich sights of interest. The next day, off to Dubendorf. We were met by Col. Ronald Boston, USAF Air Attache, Bern; Col. Dudli; Col. Geoffrey Von Meiss, Swiss AF (Ret); Tony Bernhard, Curator Director Swiss AF Museum; Hans Stapfer, Jean-Pierre Wilhelm and numerous "Well wishing" Swiss people.

Herr Bernhard and Col. Von Meiss gave "Welcome" talks. Bob Simpson, "Mac" MacSpadden, Norris King and Roland Colgate were introduced. Bob made the presentation, Mac, Norris and Roland removed the U.S. flag, veiling, the spotlighted plaque. The flag was folded by Mac and Roland and returned to Mr. Bernhard. The Association plaque was presented and Mr. Bernhard accepted. We were invited for refreshments and a tour of the museum.

While on the tour a young lady (probably 11 or 12 years old) gave a rivet from the B-17 that crashed in the Davos valley 1 Oct '43. She had been camping with her family in that area and found a 3" piece of the aircraft. She was told the engineer of that airplane lives two blocks away, Bruce Rowen. She asked that Bruce be given the rivet. Accomplished.

An unexpected event followed. We were invited to the Flight Line. We viewed Northrup 5E-Tigercats. Four, led by Oliver Wilhelm (024) taxied by us, saluted us and took off in formation. We departed for Bern.

13 Aug. we toured Bern-Clock Tower, Bear Pit, statues, etc. In the p.m. we assembled at Munsingen. We were met by Col. Boston and a six man USAF Color Guard from Stuttgart, Germany. Mr. Maurer, Mrs. Woodtli and Pastor Zellar representing Munsingen were present. At 4 p.m. our Ceremony began by thanking Munsingen persons, USAF Color Guard and others. Cited that ceremonies were underway at USAF Academy and Museum. Brief remarks to commemorate the arrival of 1st USAAF aircraft into Switzerland 50 years ago today. Also, that we honor those we left at Munsingen. We know they are no longer here but this is where we left them.

Bob Simpson and Mac MacSpadden brought the wreath to the wall at Leland Harrison

(U.S. Ambassador 1946) plaque. They were followed by Norris King and others who were in Switzerland 31 May, 1944. A moment of silence, followed by Jim Brown reading the 23rd Psalm. Norris placed seven roses in the wreath, calling out the names of his crew who had been buried at Munsingen. An eighth rose was placed to represent the 54 others buried there. The Internees saluted the colors. We were all invited for refreshments at a pavilion above the cemetery.

14 August to Bätterkinden and transfer to a bus for "Schloss Landshut" (Castle Landshut) near Utzenstorf. As we walked across the moat bridge Swiss ladies, in costume, pinned a rose corsage on the shirt of each Internee and invited us to partake of wine and goodies. Alpine hornblowers and flag throwers entertained us. Barbara Kummer-Behrens, author of the history book "Utzenstorf," gave a talk in German and English. She included the story of the arrival of the B-17 "Battle Queen" the 17 Aug '43, nearby. She presented the book "Utzenstorf," signed by her, and the book "Schloss Landshut" as well as a silver wine measuring cup from "Schloss Landshut" to the Swiss Internees Association. Engraved on the back of the cup — "U.S. Bomber Landungen 1943-93." John Scott, engineer of "Battle Queen" was introduced with his wife and their two daughters.

We returned to the plain, across the moat and in front of the castle for pictures. It was announced we would be going on a low-level mission. The Internees were lined up and a crew of two assigned to each. We were led around and behind trees to a parking area. Surprise — there were about 30 Jeeps and Weapons carriers from WW II in "Mint" condition parked there. We boarded the vehicles and were taken to the field that "Battle Queen" crash landed on. There are pictures showing a young tree off the wing of "Battle Queen." The tree is still there but is now huge. Under the tree stands a large rock with an embedded plate commemorating the event of "Battle Queen's" arrival.

Back to the vehicles and off to a nearby restaurant. The peak and under the overhang resides a 9:1500t B-17 model — "Battle Queen." The second floor houses numerous artifacts and pictures of the B-17 and others and internees. "Mac" MacSpadden located a picture of the 1943

Internee hockey team with the Thun hockey team. Mac pointed out his picture with the hockey team in Adelboden.

Boarding the Jeeps and Weapons Carriers we were taken on a "Parade Tour" of Utzenstorf. With sirens wailing, people were on balconies, porches and at curbside and many waving to us. One little boy (four or five years old) was noted saluting with his left hand and waving with his right. We were taken to a beautiful, cool wooded area for a picnic, spelled BANQUET. This was provided by Family Glauser (model makers), "Sally B." and Utzenstorf.

Norris King was introduced to Col. Ruegg (he was Capt in 1943, Kommandant of the AA battery at Sargens (North of Bad Ragaz)). This battery was ordered to shoot the formation in which Norris was aboard "Sugarfoot." Col. Ruegg gave Norris a piece of "Sugarfoot" which he had for 50 years. It was reputed that Col. Ruegg stated, "Now I can die in peace." An emotional and very understandable situation.

Onto Adelboden, where we prowled our old haunts. Some are not there and others transformed. We found the "Kleine Wald," the group of trees, just off the road beyond the "Crystal" with the plaque and a bench beside the path. Visits were made to see Herr Oester, Herr Klopfenstein's sons, Max Althaus, Katie Oesterle, Katie Schild, Fred Rubi, Peter Willen. It was learned that Tildy Haggart (Baren waitress who was with us at the Crystal in '87) and Alice Reichert (Nevada-Palace owner) passed away recently. Jackie, daughter of Alice and Jaques Reichert lives in England. We knew she still had some toys made by an internee as Jean-Pierre Wilhelm related. We now know who made the toys, Mac Mac Spadden. Thanks for sharing this with us Mac. Side trips to Zermatt, Bern, Thun, Engstigenalp were enjoyed.

Next stop, Wengen. Upon arrival we were notified, "Cocktail Hour" at 6:30 p.m. Jost Brunner, Tourist Representative, Karl Molitor (Sport Shop), Fritz Lauener (Photo Shop) were present. Jost introduced Karl who told stories about internees '44 and Wengen. Fritz took pictures and gave each one of the the "Group Picture." A fine dinner followed. Gino Kunzle visited for a day. Trips to Jungfrau, Ice Palace, Interlaken, Bern, Brienze and Lucern were taken. Others were at Davos and other

places.

Return. Zurich. That evening, to the Zeughauskeller for a farewell dinner. We were joined by a number of well wishing Swiss. After dinner, back to the Glockenhof where festivities continued with Hans Stapfer, Jean-Pierre Wilhelm, Hans Bergmann, Jackie Hafen and others. This was a most pleasant evening. The next day we departed for the U.S.A.

We were interviewed at towns and events by Swiss National TV, Swiss International Radio, newspapers and Roger Authoine. Werner Dudli accompanied and assisted us Zurich to Adelboden. Guido Meyer was with us at Bern and Adelboden.

The Jeeps and Weapons Carriers came from all over Switzerland to participate at Utzenstorf. The owners are members of an association of WW II vehicle restorers. The "Sally B" is an English Association dedicated to memorializing the B-17 and the Swiss Chapter is active.

Three birthdays were celebrated: Tony Giammatei 13 Aug. and Ancil Anderson and Bob Long 19 Aug.

Mac and Chris Mac Spadden, Seattle, WA and Lorraine and Betty Jackson, Sunnyside, WA were our distance traveling internees.

ESCAPE FROM LES DIABLERETE by Charles Joeckel

We arrived Geneva, 27 May '44. My known crewmen Bob Daly, Jim Brown, Charlie Horton, Harry Siemens.

Dec 1, '44 at Les Diablerete word was — escapers meet at 1800. Civies under uniforms, we departed at :04 min. intervals for Le Sepey. Ice and snow made difficult walking. When the road forked, I took the wrong way. Meeting another internee we returned to the fork. A mile down the road, our contact.

We waited well beyond our time. Two cars appeared with six Polish soldiers. We were crammed into the cars. After a time the other car's fan belt broke. We all piled out and our car went to locate a fan belt. Eventually, we were on the way to the next contact.

Our next contact, a Polish soldier, who was a deer on the run, took us over fields, through woods and swamps. I was so tired, my legs and feet ached. The muddy fields caused me to fall back a ways and then run to catch up. The pace was killing me. Suddenly, we heard "Halt" and shots

rang out. Everyone hit the ground, but me. I ran to catch up with the guide and others. As I neared, they took off like rabbits. We ran to a clump of trees. There was a river a short distance away. The guide looked and started back along the river. I could hardly lift my feet. I prayed to God for strength. I received it as from here on it was God's strength not mine that carried me.

Some distance later we waded the river in chest deep ice cold, swift moving water. The guide helped us out with a long pole. We were in France.

A head count was made and we were missing three Polish and four Americans. A short time later we heard "Hey, how the hell do you get over there?" It was "Pop" Close. The guide helped him reach us. He told that when the shots rang out, he hid. Three Americans (Stanley, D'Atri, Peter Boruta) were caught with two Polish soldiers and one Polish soldier had been shot.

We walked three miles through a swamp. I pushed my feet along as I could not lift them. We stopped at a farm house, received a bit of food and then to a nearby cafe for few shots of kirche. I was tired and so cold I could not shiver. A G.I. truck pulled up and took us to a town. Dry clothes, toilet articles and chance to shower. After dressing, we ate and I mean we ate. Butter, white bread, milk, peanut butter, good soup and a steak. The soup was a far cry from that hot water that had a potato passed through it that we had in Switzerland. I think the cook ate the potato. It took me four days to recover enough to walk. I was back with U.S. military forces. Other names remembered Leask Herman, Lloyd Roach.

REUNION '94 — San Diego

Bahia Resort Hotel, October 27, 28, 29, 1994. You can arrive two days before and/or stay two days beyond at our



Don & Dot Buck at the Swiss AF Museum

rate — King, Dbl/Dbl, \$85.00 per night, 1 or 2 people. Extra person \$15.00. Tax 9 percent. Suites \$175.00 per night.

All attendees receive complimentary passes for (1) Bahia Belle, a stern paddlewheeler that cruises Mission Bay — stop and pickups along the shore. (2) The Comedy Club and (3) The Cannibal Bar. These are \$15 and \$20 value passes.

Banquets run about \$25.00 and if we take a Banquet cruise aboard the William D. Evans \$45.00 is anticipated cost.

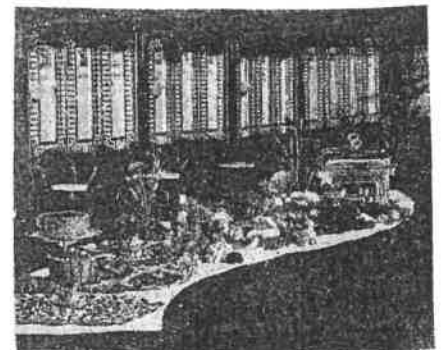
Complimentary airport shuttle. San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Aerospace Museum, and myriad other attractions are available and are nearby.

Our thanks to Robert Cardenas, Donald Waters and Norman Radin for arranging these items and they will develop plans for other items later.

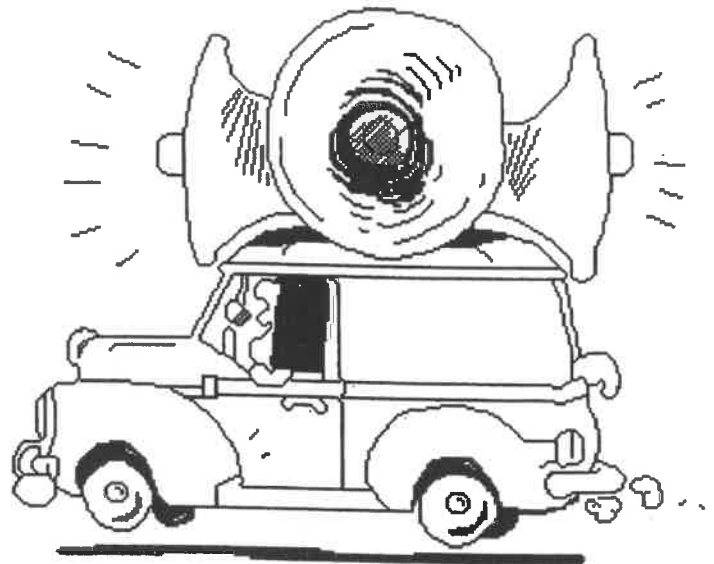
All room reservations will be through the Hotel by individuals. All group meals at the hotel will be paid by individuals. Hotel reservation by plastic or check by Sept. 25. Other aspects — meals, etc. paid by plastic or check perhaps by two weeks prior to arrival. This is so that all monies are between the hotel and individuals. More information later.

ARLINGTON CEMETARY

Alfred Shearer and Ralph Coulson were reburied at Arlington from Munsingen.



BAHIA RESORT HOTEL- BAHIA BELLE STERN-WHEELER



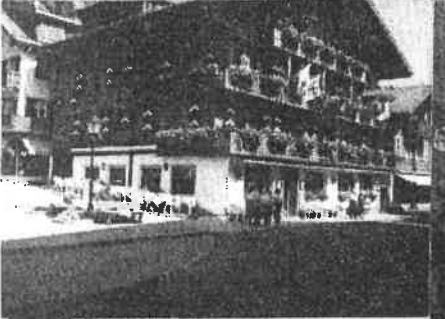
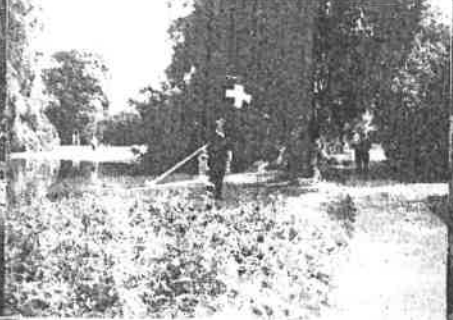
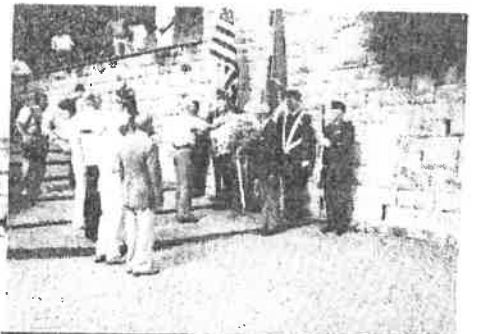
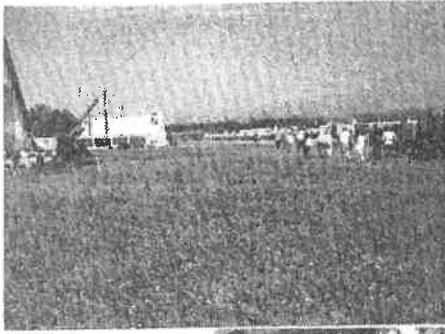
Progress is being made to locate our Association plaque in Arlington Cemetary. Joe Krajewski reports he has contacted the cemetary horticulturalist about the tree and the monument maker about the stone footing and plaque mounting on a granite block. Joe seeks information about a Dedication ceremony and requirements for such from the Director. Costs for the "Living Memorial" (a tree, plaque on a granite block set on a concrete footing) are approxiamtely the same as our Memorial at the USAF Museum.

MARCH AFB — HERITAGE TILES

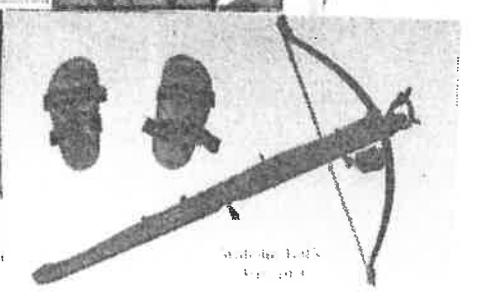
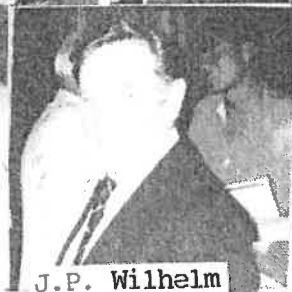
Swiss Interned USAAF Crews, Buried 62 Men Munsingen Cemetary Switzerland 1943-45

INTERNEE ADDRESSES

If you have names and address of internees, please send 'em to "Search Committee." Address on page 2.



Col. Ronald Boston Col. W. Dudli, Alex Mussard Dr. Von Meiss Gino Kunzle



Hans Stapfer

J.P. Wilhelm

J. Brunner K. Molitor

with the 1st's
Bow and Arrow