



## **ANNUAL REPORT 20024**

### **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.***

### **HISTORY:**

- In 2018, descendants of the Oflag 64 POWs met with their Polish advocate, Dr. Mariusz Winiecki, in Sterling VA, to strategize the next steps. The outcome of the meeting was twofold. It was determined to begin the process of registering a Polish-American Foundation in Poland and to establish a nonprofit in the United States as the supporting arm of the Foundation.
- In January of 2019, the **Polish – American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin** was registered in Poland. Its mission is to create a museum to promote and highlight the experiences of prisoners of war held captive in occupied Poland during the Second World War.
- In May of 2019, **Friends of Oflag 64**, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, was recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. [www.friendsofotlag64.org](http://www.friendsofotlag64.org)

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- To date, almost 1,000 artifacts to include books and journals donated by family members have been shipped and are safely stored in Poland awaiting the completion of exhibit displays.
- In 2022, the Polish - American Foundation (PAF), for which Friends of Oflag 64 provides financial support via donations, completed the renovation of an original camp building, the POW **Tin Store**. During their incarceration, the POWs used this modest building to stockpile and ration the lifesaving food tins provided in their Red Cross parcels.
- The renovated POW **Tin Store** will provide a beautiful and secure space to share the remarkable artifacts and fascinating history. Planning for the setup of the exhibits is underway with an exhibition opening targeted for 2025.
- For the past three years **The National WWII Museum** in New Orleans has sponsored a tour group to Poland and the Szubin location has been on the visitation itinerary.
- Over the recent years we have not only collected artifacts but have also engaged in several fundraising endeavors and have raised \$394,637.49 for the PAF.
- A well-regarded Polish museum contractor, Littera, has been engaged to design and build displays for the artifacts. This work is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2025.