

EXTRA THE Oflag DAILY BULLETIN EXTRA

Issue 4

March 2024

Welcome

In March of 1944, the German authorities ordered that all POWs' Red Cross food tins must either be opened, or stored in the POW Tin Store warehouse. By forbidding the POWs to have extra tins of food at their disposal, they hoped to hinder any escape attempts. The POW Tin Store saved the men from starvation. We are honored to use it now to save their remarkable history.

Inside this issue are renderings of the future Tin Store Museum. Experts who have previewed our plans are thrilled with our venue and the knowledge that our exhibit will provide.

Our designer and fabricator are well-known in this arena, and have been prudent with our limited funds. In fact, they have generously shared their time and expertise beyond their scope of work. We are now ready to purchase our lighting package, and construct and install the exhibit cases.

Since the 2018 founding of the Szubin-based Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin, the U.S. Friends of Oflag 64 has donated \$225,000 to support its operations, and to launch the museum project.

As of this writing, we are in need of an additional \$140,000 to complete and open The Tin Store. Your tax-deductible donations to the Friends of Oflag 64 make this work possible. [Donate here to help us finish.](#)

If you'd like to send a check, see the address on the back page. Thank you as always for your generosity.

Please spread the word: forward this newsletter to your friends and family. Help us commemorate the Allied POWs and the brave Polish citizens who assisted them. Understanding the details of history is important now and for generations to come.



The POW Tin Store with German guard, circa 1941



Future Tin Store Museum

RENDERINGS OF THE FUTURE TIN STORE

The exhibit guides the visitor on a journey from the beginnings of the POW camps in Szubin in the fall of 1939, to the evacuation in January 1945.



0107

EXHIBITION IN SZUBIN



In the entry vestibule, visitors will watch a short video of the Oflag 64 POWs. As they enter the main exhibit, they can study maps, and learn about the POW camps of the Third Reich in general, and the origins of the Szubin camps, in particular.

*Design: Małgorzata Gliwińska-Radwańska
Renderings: Littera, Gdańsk, Poland*



0101

EXHIBITION IN SZUBIN / SHOWCASE 09

Littera
expo design

Audio handsets and sliding magnifying glasses will bring the exhibits to life.



FLOOR PLAN

0106

Littera
expo design

EXHIBITION IN SZUBIN

Photos and original POW artwork will be printed on the exhibit walls and glass dividers that surround the narrative and the displays.

THANK YOU FOUNDATION OFFICERS



In 2018, Marlene Thompson McAllister led the first in-person meeting of the Oflag 64 Advisory Group. With energy and attention to detail, she led a three-day brainstorming session with nine volunteers who spanned three generations, from Poland and across the U.S.

The group established goals and objectives, including founding the Friends of Oflag 64 and the Polish-American Foundation for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin. Both were accomplished within a year. Marlene remained active as a Council member of the Foundation. Her term ended at the end of 2023, and we are grateful that she will continue to apply her nonprofit experience to other various projects for our organizations. Marlene's father, Lt. Robert T. Thompson, was held at Oflag 64 from December 1944 until January 21, 1945. Through the decades, he was one of several lead organizers of post-Oflag 64 reunions and newsletters.



[Tom Cobb](#) also attended the planning session of 2018, and later become Chair of the Foundation. Under Tom's leadership, the Council worked with officials in Szubin, established necessary procedures for artifact collection, and explored the different options for constructing a museum. It's

not easy to coordinate the work of a new volunteer organization across six time zones and a global pandemic. Tom achieved it with good humor and thoughtful solutions. Tom's term as Council Chair has expired, but he has agreed to remain as a member of the Council. Tom's father, Lt. George A. Cobb, arrived at Oflag 64 in April 1944, and departed on 21 January, 1945.



[Pat Waters](#) has been an organizer of Oflag 64 reunions, and was the first Chair of the Foundation. He too participated in the 2018 planning session, and we are honored that he has agreed to serve another term as a Council member. Pat was instrumental in establishing the Foundation in 2018, and

has promoted our projects throughout the World War II community. He is the grandson of General George S. Patton. Pat's father, Lt. Col. John K. Waters, who retired from the Army in 1966 as a four-star general, was among the first group of arrivals at Oflag 64 on 6 June 1943, and left via the evacuation of 21 January 1945.

WELCOME NEW FOUNDATION OFFICERS

In the Fall of 2023, we welcomed three new Council members and one new Board member. We are honored that they have agreed to guide us through our next phase.



[Marianne Merriam](#)



[Robert Thompson](#)



[Jan Karcz](#)



[Kasia Kacprzak](#)

Thank you to all the volunteers who are working together to share this history. We look forward to honoring all of you in future issues.



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)

[@FriendsOfOflag64](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfOflag64)

office@friendsofotlag64.org

[donate to Friends of Oflag 64](#)

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Friends of Oflag 64

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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.

[szubinpowcamps.org](http://www.szubinpowcamps.org)

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

Mailing Address:

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ul. Gen. Jarosława Dąbrowskiego 17/1
89-200 Szubin, Poland

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.