

EXTRA THE Oflag DAILY BULLETIN EXTRA

Issue 8



December 2025

Wishing you Joy and Peace this Holiday Season

Our *Bulletin Extra* builds on the legacy of *The Oflag Daily Bulletin*, the daily newssheet published by a small group of Oflag 64 POWs. Beginning in the fall of 1943, they posted news and photos about the war. They tacked up their latest handwritten editions on their POW bulletin board by the Mess Hall, and the men crowded around to read. Even the Germans came to depend on it for its honest reporting.

The photo on this page is from their 1945 New Year's Day issue. The center column conveys the men's rising anticipation for the end of the war:

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

The year of hope and freedom, and return to the living, opened today in Szubin, while large scale battles in the Ardennes Forest were raging to decide the fate of the critical year of 1945.



Oflag Daily Bulletin, 1 January 1945.
U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center, Carlisle, PA. Photo: Susanna Connaughton

The Bulletin's editorial staff could not have imagined their publication's legacy eighty years later. Photos of *The Bulletin* will be one of the many displays at our Tin Store museum. The newssheets exemplify the resourcefulness and strength of our POWs (see page 2).

The Tin Store, our original POW camp building now dedicated to the history of the POW camps of Szubin, is our cornerstone project. With its opening on May 15, 2026 (see page 2), we hope that the rich history that fills our 530 square-foot space will enlighten generations to come. We are grateful to our extensive volunteer community who for almost ten years have dedicated their time, energy, and funds to reach this exciting day.

Our next phase is to sustain this work by hiring an employee in Szubin. This person will help to bring the museum to its full potential--organizing tours, managing digital and traveling exhibits, and seeking grants.

As you make your year-end donations, please consider a gift to support this exciting next phase.

Your gift may be made through a variety of ways including checks, securities, Qualified Charitable Distributions, Required Minimum Distributions, or by setting up an automated monthly payment through your bank. Questions about specific types of donations? Please email [Friends of Oflag 64](mailto:office@friendsofotlag64.org) at office@friendsofotlag64.org. Your gifts are a pledge of partnership and belief in the enduring legacy of the Tin Store, its POWs, and the brave Polish citizens who aided them. Thank you.

We wish you and yours a happy holiday and a healthy new year.

SUSTAIN THE LEGACY



THE OFLAG DAILY BULLETIN RETURNS TO SZUBIN

In the fall of 1943, Oflag 64 prisoner Larry Allen, a Pulitzer-prize winning war correspondent, hand-wrote and posted the first issue of what would become *The Oflag Daily Bulletin*. The uncensored—and popular—publication infuriated the German commandant. He threw Allen in the brig. Senior American Officer Col. Thomas Drake protested, and the commandant released him. The next day, an unabashed

Allen posted his second issue of the *Bulletin*. From that day forward, the *Bulletin* published almost daily until the last days of the camp in January 1945.

The paper and ink that Allen and the staff of artists and interpreters used came from the International YMCA. Their news sources included the guard-supplied German Propaganda Ministry's German and English language radio broadcasts blasted over the camp loudspeakers, and the Ministry's newspapers and magazines. The interpreters translated the German and weeded out the propaganda. And, unbeknownst to the Germans, the POW writers supplemented these sources with information they learned from the BBC broadcast over the POWs' secret radio.

After each issue had been posted, the POWs in the book bindery bound the newssheets into large books. During the long escape toward home, *Bulletin* staffers carried these heavy, precious volumes across Europe, the Soviet Union, and home to the U.S. We are indebted to these POWs' awareness of the importance of the *Daily Bulletin* as a primary source for understanding life in a POW camp and the importance of information.

Decades later, these same men donated the bound *Daily Bulletins* to the U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center. Visitors to the Tin Store museum will be able to view a carousel photo montage of original editions of the *Bulletin*. The Tin Store and the *Daily Bulletin's* history of cooperation,



Oflag Daily Bulletin as it appeared posted on its masthead, 6 June 1944. U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center. Photo: Susanna Connaughton



Oflag Daily Bulletin, bound edition, 12 October 1944, U.S. Army Heritage & Educational Center. Photo: Susanna Connaughton



Oflag Daily Bulletin as it appeared posted on its masthead, January 1945, "Features Page," U.S. Army Heritage & Educational Center. Photo: Susanna Connaughton

resourcefulness, and patriotism are among the many timeless lessons that may now be taught to future generations.

The above photos will be part of our Daily Bulletin video display at the Tin Store

TIN STORE UPDATE: OPENING AND BEYOND

Our grand opening in Szubin is on May 15, 2026. If you are interested in attending the invitation-only opening ceremony, please contact us at tinstore@szubinpowcamps.org.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Tin Store. After our grand opening, if you would like to tour the Tin Store, please [send us a note](#) and we will be glad to schedule your visit.



HOW THE HOLIDAYS HELPED THE POWS

The POWs of Szubin marked their holidays with humor and creativity. Their resourceful preparations distracted them from the cold and hunger of camp life. Supplies came in from the YMCA, the Red Cross, packages from friends and family, and a few items (like peas and fresh carrots) smuggled in by friendly Poles working in the camp or (often-bribed) guards. During the holidays, the cooks at Oflag 64 used Tin Store reserves to fry Spam for everybody for their holiday dinners. The Oflag 64 Glee Club performed a Christmas Concert, and the Oflag 64 POW's monthly newspaper, *The Item*, printed a bonus Christmas Eve edition in a festive green ink. Though far from their homes, loved ones, and freedom, they used what they had to boost morale—their own and their fellow prisoners'.

These items will be on display at the Tin Store



The Oflag 64 Item Christmas Issue, 24 December 1943. Articles detail the upcoming all-day Christmas Day program and the promise of a special Red Cross Christmas parcel. Donated by Tony B. Lumpkin III via Friends of Oflag 64.



Christmas Gazette, 1941. Unique commemoration made by a German guard at Oflag XXI B Schubin, with poems, song lyrics, and illustrations. Foundation collection.



Christmas Day Program at Oflag 64, 1944. This program and *The Item* were printed at a nearby printshop that was managed by one of the German guards. Donated by Karin White, via Friends of Oflag 64.



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.

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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

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(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.

To read archived issues of *The Daily Bulletin Extra*, please visit our websites at friendsofotlag64.org/news or szubinpowcamps.org/en/news