



Friends of Oflag 64

Help Our Vision Become a Reality

Imagine that you were a U.S. prisoner of war during World War II being held in a German POW camp in Szubin, Poland. As the war was drawing to a close, you and over 1,000 other men were marched out of the camp in January, 1945, toward Germany. You walked through snow and bitter cold for almost two months, covering nearly 400 miles. About 400 of you escaped or dropped out, too weak to march. Finally on April 29, the survivors were liberated by units of the U.S. 14th Armored Division.



Drawing by Jim Bickers

This horrifying experience was never forgotten by these brave soldiers after their return home, but with the passage of time, the importance of preserving their experiences as lessons for succeeding generations becomes more critical. We are asking for your support to carry out this important work through the *Polish-American Foundation (PAF) for the Commemoration of POW Camps in Szubin*.

- In 2019, the Polish – American Foundation 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 2019, *Friends of Oflag 64*, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, was recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Its mission is to support the Polish - American Foundation through fundraising, collecting artifacts, and publicizing and promoting the future museum.

Thanks to your generosity through both monetary and artifact donations, we are making great progress toward reaching our initial goal of establishing and sustaining an exhibition on the grounds of the former prison camp in Poland.

In 2022, the Polish - American Foundation, for which we provide financial support through your donations, completed the renovation of an original camp building, the POW **Tin Store**. The POWs used this modest building to stockpile and ration the lifesaving food tins provided in their Red Cross parcels.

For the time being, 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 late 2023.

To make this exhibit opening a reality, we ask for your financial support. We are launching a fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$80,000 in 2023 to fund the design, setup and maintenance of the displays, as well as the operation of the exhibit space for visitors and historical researchers. This campaign is an opportunity for you to be part of preserving history and educating future generations on the sacrifices made by the American POWs and Polish citizens to ensure continued freedom.

Please support this endeavor by accessing the Donate button at: www.friendsofotlag64.org/donate or sending a check to Friends of Oflag 64 – 12768 Turberville Lane, Oak Hill, VA 20171

With deepest appreciation,

Cindy Burgess
Chairman, Friends of Oflag 64