


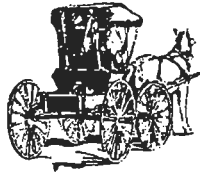


SUPER-LUMINARY



Volume 3. Issue 7 September. 2010

IN THIS ISSUE	WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
<p>Welcome New Members Upcoming Schedule POW'S Bus-eum Exhibit Gift Shop November Speaker Ads</p>	<p>Please welcome new Life Members, Gary & Debbie Wright of Georgetown.</p>
UPCOMING SCHEDULE	POW's BUS-EUM EXHIBIT
<p>Next Meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2010 with a covered dish dinner to welcome our new members. They have been invited at no charge. The dinner will start at 6:30 P.M. with a short business meeting to follow, and election of two Board members will be conducted. . There is no speaker scheduled. Charge will be \$5.00 at the door Place settings, main entrée and beverages will be provided.</p> <p>Don't forget the POW's Exhibit also </p>	<p>The POW'S EXHIBIT IN A SELF CONTAINED BUS WILL BE LOCATED AT THE MARVEL CARRIAGE MUSEUM on Monday, October 4, 2010 from 5:00 PM to 8 PM</p> <p><i>(There will be no admission charge, but donations will be accepted.)</i></p> <p>SEE PHOTOS NEXT PAGE</p>
GIFT SHOP	NOVEMBER SPEAKER
<p>We are staffed by volunteers only, that is why we do not have regular hours. If you would like a tour, or wish to volunteer just give Rosalie a call at 855-0722</p>	<p>The featured speaker for the November 1ST meeting will be Ms. Nancy Lynch of Bethel, Delaware. She will be speaking about her book</p> <p>" Vietnam Mailbag "</p>



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BUS-eum 1, a traveling TRACES exhibit

Scenes from the BUS-eum | video of a typical stop | Post-BUS exhibit scenes

Grand Forks Herald | Lawrence Journal | Slide Show

Northern Great Plains Tour Fall 2010 | Teaching Materials | Narrative Texts | References

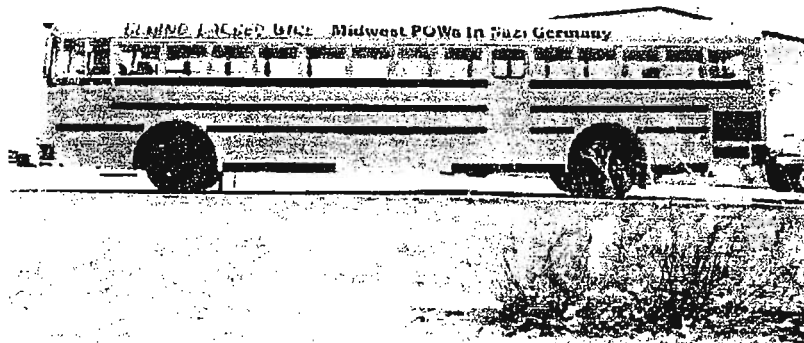
Tour Publicity Packet | Tour Poster | Evaluation Form-Visitor | Evaluation Form-Sponsor

| To Order Exhibit Guide | To Order POW Diaries |

Behind Barbed Wire: Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany



Iowan Thearl Mesecher was a POW in Nazi Germany for 14 months.



The BUS-eum 1 awaits the installation of graphics and the exhibit, March 2004

The Upper Midwest has unique connections to the World War II European-theater prisoner of war (POW) experience. They occurred during the Third Reich, which is what Germany's Nazis defined as the era of their empire. The first U.S. troops sent to Europe came from the Iowa-based 34th "Red Bull" Division. This division consisted of men from Iowa, the Dakotas and Minnesota. They served for more than 600 days, which was the longest uninterrupted duty of any U.S. unit in the history of the U.S. Army. About 2,000 soldiers from the 34th Division were captured in North Africa in February of 1943. They were captured in February 1943 by German *Afrika* corps troops, led by Field Marshall Erwin Rommel. (Thousands of other Midwest men spent time as POWs, too, but in smaller numbers.) Later, pilots shot down during air raids over Germany formed a second wave of Midwest POWs imprisoned in Nazi Germany. Until the Battle of Bulge took place in December of 1944, just west of Germany in Belgium and Luxembourg, a disproportionate share of U.S. POWs in the Third Reich came, per capita, from the Upper Midwest. Minorities were among those POWs and their struggles were worsened by racism within

the Army and at home.

Despite the uniqueness of this legacy, virtually no one is aware of the special role Midwest soldiers played in the larger U.S. WWII experience. This is a disadvantage as we witness yet another cycle of global war and conflict: we forget what our ancestors experienced; we fail to learn from those experiences and apply whatever lessons they might offer us today. The non-profit



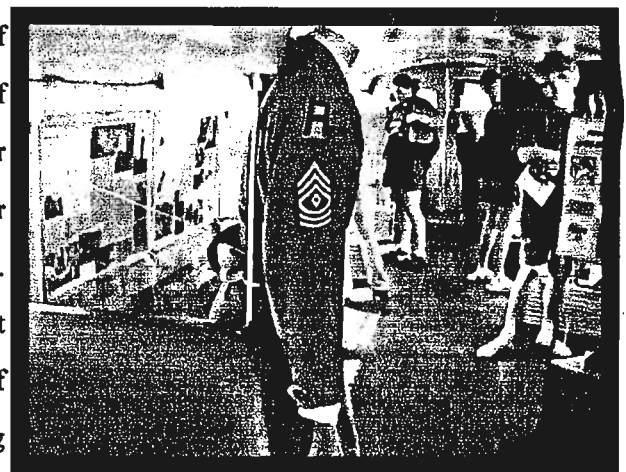
educational organization TRACES is bringing these stories to life through the creation of its **BUS-eum**—a 40-foot school bus converted into a mobile museum.



The exhibit consists of narrative display panels illustrated with photographs and documents, audio and DVD documentaries, artifacts and more. This exhibit will bring the stories of Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany to both large and small communities around the region. Remembering the experiences of the POWs in their communities of origin is a unique adventure in U.S. history. The **BUS-eum** is the only known mobile museum in the nation focused on the experiences

and related historical contexts of U.S. POWs. TRACES will bring it to both Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma between Labor Day and Veterans Day, fall 2007, with the exhibit *Behind Barbed Wire: Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany*. The **BUS-eum** will visit the seven other Midwestern states in the next two years.

This educational experience has been built upon years of research and gathered support. The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and the Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin have supplied hundreds of photos for the exhibit that otherwise are unknown in the United States. Indiana-born former POW and best-selling author Kurt Vonnegut has given TRACES free and unrestricted use of *Slaughterhouse Five* his account of having been present during the firebombing of Dresden. Funding partners in this project



include the Iowa Arts Council, Thomas Bus Sales, Firestone Agricultural Tire, WOI Radio, the Gold Star Military Museum, most Midwest states' Humanities councils, civic organizations, private individuals and many more.

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