

MS 25

HENRY SODERBERG**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This manuscript record consists of six boxes and one oversize package of material, further arranged into the cartons in which the material was received. Within the cartons the items are consecutively numbered.

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION**CARTON ONE****BOX ONE**

Item 1 "About this green photo album," (1945), relates to Soderberg staying with British internees in Spittal in southern Austria at the very end of the war, Apr-May 1945. When Soderberg stayed with the men in Camp Ilag XVIII, Spittal, he "could use his camera openly," the result was the attached series of photos which correspond to the manuscript, "The Sane Asylum," (located in Carton One, Item 2.)

Item 2 "About this manuscript," The Sane Asylum," by Alfred J. Bruck, a Jew, is a diary kept during the war at Ilag XVIII at Kreuzburg located in Upper Silesia. The prisoners were all civilians captured by the Germans at the outbreak of war. Soderberg visited this camp quite often and spent New Year's Eve 1944-1945 here. The photographs in green scrapbook, Item 1, correspond to the manuscript. The manuscript is divided into thirty-five chapters.

I	The Arrival.
II	The First Christmas.
III	The New Year.
IV	The News.
V	Summer.
VI	The Wulzburgers.
VII	Winter Again.
VIII	The Departure.
IX	Ilag Kreuzburg O.S.
X	The Late Summer.

XI	The New Room Warden.
XII	Another Year Ends.
XIII	The New Kommandant.
XIV	The Radio News.
XV	Exciting Events.
XVI	Ilag Tost Breaks Up.
XVII	A Disturbed Christmas.
XVIII	The Beginning of the End.
XIX	Repatriation Starts.
XX	The Duck.
XXI	Our New Vertrauensmann.
XXII	Captain Balbo.
XXIII	The Russians Break Through.
XXIV	The Flight.
XXV	A Winter Journey.
XXVI	Spittal an der Draw.
XXVII	Sky Cruising.
XXVIII	Spring.
XXIX	The End in Sight.
XXX	Victory.
XXXI	The Release.
XXXII	V Down.
XXXIII	In Italy.
XXXIV	Homeward Bound.
XXXV	Journey's End.

Item 3 Two photographs.

Captioned photograph of Winston Churchill and Eisenhower,
 "Winston Churchill Used Tears and Tantrums to Get His Way with
 Eisenhower to No Avail."

Captioned photograph of George C. Marshall, "So Great Was the Dignity and Moral Authority of George C. Marshall."

- Item 4 Soderberg diary (in Swedish) 1943, 1945, as published in a Swedish newspaper, (Ostgota Correspondenten).
- Item 5 Maps of camp locations in the eastern parts of Nazi Germany; the camps regularly visited by Soderberg are marked in red.

CARTON TWO

BOX TWO

- Item 1 Index cards (four separate stacks) with notes, in Swedish, from interviews with individual POWs as a part of the function of the YMCA delegates. (NOTE: Second shipment of material from Soderberg provided a booklet with English translation of each one of the cards; translations are now filed with index cards).
- Item 2 Selected newspaper articles, written by Soderberg, mainly in Swedish papers and magazines, picturing life in POW camps and in various activities.

CARTON THREE

BOX TWO

- Item 1 Book, wooden, gift to Soderberg from a German captain from Belgium, 1945. A collection of handwritten (printed) pages containing Goethe's most famous poem. It was made in an educational camp. (NOTE: that on 16 Nov 1985, Soderberg has written in front of the book: "This is of the most precious souvenirs from a German POW camp. I am happy that it can be kept at the USAF Academy for all time to come.")
- Item 2 Book, green, two page welcome from a German POW Camp, a 'thank-you' to YMCA.
- Item 3 Eleven linoleum prints by Uri Koch/Ilag XVIII, Spittal, Austria, allegorically depicting the mind and thoughts of a Jewish internee dreaming about the

future state of Israel, 8 May 1945; prints wrapped in green construction paper.
- Item 4 Five pages bound in metal on bottom, reads "Programm Fuer Osterveranstaltungen" Camp 2232. In German, about a Sportfest and presented especially to Soderberg. Last page depicts a forlorn German soldier standing alone by his camp in the woods.
- Item 5 Twenty-two folders.

Camp magazine covers at Christmas time in Germany from American, British, Belgium, and French camps, 1943-1944.

POW arts in camps in Germany, including drawings, wood carvings, and linoleum prints.

- Item 6 Book, green with white emblems, "Das Schwarze Brett," translated: The Blackboard. (YMCA, 1947). This book distributed by the YMCA workers in Belgium in 1947 when the last German POWs were repatriated. Book includes literary and artistic products by German POWs.
- Item 7 Christmas greetings from a German POW Camp in Belgium to the YMCA, 1945. The greetings are enclosed with heavy green linoleum covers, a leather spine, with a Christmas etching on front.
- Item 8 Book, For This Alone, by R.P.L. Mogg, aka John Dominy, (a journalist, Stalag Luft 6) contains poetry, 1943. Included is the introduction about the author - "altogether this book represents many hours of enjoyable work executed to while away what might have been dull moments in a Prisoner-of-War Camp." Poem titles:
 - "For This Alone."
 - "Heldentod."
 - "Exodus."
 - "Night Bombers."
 - "Requiem for Dead Airmen."

CARTON FOUR

BOX FOUR

- Item 1 Green notebook, "World's Alliance of YMCA's War Prisoners' Aid" containing some of the history of the War Prisoners' Aid in Belgium, 1946. Soderberg writes about the first months of 1945 when several thousands of Germans were taken prisoner in northwestern Germany, Holland, and Belgium and sent to camps in Belgium and about the need for welfare work among the POWs. This notebook covers different aspects of the work in these camps. Included is a section: Permanent POW Camps in Belgium, which the YMCA served. Writings also covered billeting, transportation, shipment of books, maps of POW camps. Also included are "Special Problems in the Camps in Belgium," i.e., different levels of intellect, religion, the relations between the British and the Germans. In addition, a section: "Education in POWs Camps in Belgium," with Professor Hans Scherer; and a section: "Aid to the Religious Life in the POW Camp," "Thoughts about the Problems of Play-Acting in POW

Camps;" and finally "Music Life in Our Camp." This notebook contains photographs of the people connected with the camps, including Soderberg.

- Item 2 Green-mottled notebook containing reports and documents from the work with the War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA in Belgium, Aug 1945-Jul 1946. Included are instructions for "Visitors" from the YMCA who were to visit the camps. Every camp visitor had to make his own arrangements and had always to remember that he was representative of thousands of friends and supporters of the Y work. This notebook covers the reports or "surveys" on POW work in Belgium beginning Aug 1945, with Soderberg authoring many of the reports. End of the notebook reports are in German.

- Item 3 Book, Die Bruecke und Neues Leben Blueht aus den Ruinen. (2 copies).

CARTON FIVE

BOX ONE

- Item 1 Contains twelve items of YMCA literature, magazines, and pamphlets representing the countries that supported the YMCA, mainly the USA, Great Britain, Switzerland, and Sweden. The German government contributed with direct gifts of money for the work performed among German POWs in other countries. Included:

YMCA War Prisoners Aid News, Vol. 1, No. 2; headline: War Prisoner Workers Jam Cities and Farms in Germany, Jun 1944, (3 copies).

YMCA War Prisoners Aid News, Vol. 2, No. 2; headline: Next of Kin: Tears and Cheers Follow Former Prisoners on U.S. Tour, Feb 1945.

YMCA War Prisoners Aid News, Vol. 2, No. 6; headline: Until the Last Man is Free, Sep 1945.

Three booklets.

Ich Bin Gefanger Gewesen, roughly translated as, "I Was Captured." Contents in German.

Predigt fuer englische Kriegsgefangene, roughly translated as, "Sermon for English POWs." Contents in English.

Un Message Pour Tons (Predigt fuer protestantische franzosische Kriegsgefangene), roughly translated as, "A Sermon for French Protestant POWs."

Two booklets, YMCA; one reads:, L'U.C.J.G., in French, explaining the Y as an organization whose secretaries visit the camps, whose officers in different countries supply them with books, musical instruments, athletic

and other material. The red triangle on box became familiar to POWs. These booklets present some info about a youth movement.

Two small brochures.

A Christmas Festival.

Zalig Kerstfeest, compiled and dedicated to all POWs through the War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA.

Book, I Was in Prison, with sign, "by trespassing the warning fence the guard will shoot immediately." This book pays tribute to many organizations without whose help prison life would have been unbearable. This book regarded as the "flagship" of YMCA PR in order to raise money for the POW work.

Magazine, YMCA-Communique, Vol. 1, No. 3, published bimonthly at Geneva, May-Jun 1948.

- Item 2 Book, The Yorkshire Post, Kriegie edition (Stalag Luft VI, POW edition). Autographed by Dixie Deans, "To my good friend, Henry Soderberg, whose good work helped to make this book possible." Book contains cartoons, articles about the White Rose Club entertainment, sports summary, the cinema organ and many other subjects. This book was handwritten in camp and sent to England in order to show the people at home what camp life looked like.

(See also Carton Six A, Box Four, Item 6.)

- Item 3 Booklet, Get a Load of This. A cartoon record of active and inactive service by Cal Younger. (Autographed by Younger, "For Henry Soderberg." Cal Younger was one of 20,000 Australians to go overseas to serve with the RAF, 1939-45. He was a POW for some time and during this, further developed his flair for cartooning and finally this book. Also, Cal Younger is the editor of the ex-POW magazine of the Royal Air Force, "The Kriegie."
- Item 4 Booklet, For One Night Only. A review, presented by the RAF Prisoners of Stalagluft VI and dedicated to the World's Alliance of YMCAs. Letter dated 19 Aug 70 in long-hand to Soderberg from the Secretary of State from Wales thanking him for program. The program lists Soderberg as giving address. The letter from the Secretary of Wales is interesting for in 1944 he was in Stalagluft VI, and the speaker of that show. Soderberg met him by coincidence in Cardiff and sent him a copy of the program. He returned it with copy of above referenced letter. "For One Night Only" show was put on stage because of the YMCA visit, with only one copy of the program made, that for Soderberg.

- Item 5 Book, No Flight from the Cage, by Calton Younger, contains an inscription to Soderberg by James Deans, dated 25 Nov 1967; published 1956.

(See also Carton Three, Box Two, Item 8.)

- Item 6 Book, The Sergeant Escapes, by John Dominy, aka Ronald Mogg, with a foreword by Airey Neave. The plot is set in the RAF wartime prison camp. Published 1974. John Dominy was assistant to the camp leader, James Deans in Stalagluft VI.

CARTON SIX

BOX SIX

- Item 1 This entire package consists of the publication, Ceux Du IA, (Stalag IA, Stalack, North Koenigsburg) Belgium ex-POWS. The Ceux Du IA contains interesting reports from East Prussia, from camp life. Many of the stories told (in French) about the last days of the camp with the Russians advancing are considered absolutely unique and cannot be found anywhere else in literature about WWII. This was one of the first camps inside Germany to be exposed by the advancing Russian armies. 1949 (1-issue) 1967-79 in this carton; 1980-85 continued in Carton Six A, Box Four. Added to Carton 6, Box 3, Item 1, are twelve issues of the Pub "Ceux Du IA" numbers 510-521, Mar 1990-Mar 1991.

CARTON SIX A

BOX SEVEN

- Item 1 The publication, Ceux Du IA. Continued from Carton Six, Box Six. 1980-85 in this carton. Also included: The Camp, samples of the Canadian Air Force Ex-POW magazine, Nov 1964, Dec 1967, (undated -1970?), Jan 1984. The 1984 issue contains article about ex-POWs holding their 40th reunion 2-4 May 1985 at the Marriott Hotel, Denver, CO, Bill Nance, Chairman. The American ex-POWs have made the USAF Academy Library the official repository of their Stalagluft III historic memorabilia. The article also states that the "Kriegies had donated \$1,000 to build this collection at the Academy." Also included are two single issues: Deces De Camarades, 1983? and Le Fonds Leon Florence, 1981.

- Item 2 Royal Air Forces Ex-POW Association newsletters, edited by Vic Gannon. (Pam bound, small, in white).

No. 14	winter	1979-1980.
No. 15	spring	1980.
No. 16	summer	1980.

No. 17	winter	1980-1981.
No. 18	spring-summer	1981.
No. 19	winter	1982.
No. 20	winter	1982-1983.
No. 21	summer	1983.

- Item 3 RAF Ex-Prisoner of War Association (mimeographed long sheets, stapled). At a committee meeting it was decided that a newsletter should be circulated to members approximately every two months and a "Kriegie" published every six months.

No. 2	Aug	1976.
No. 3	Nov	1976.
No. 4	Feb	1977.
No. 5	Apr	1977.
No. 6	Jul	1977.
No. 7	Sep	1977.
No. 8	Nov	1977.
No. 9	Mar	1978.
No. 10	May	1978.
No. 11	Sep	1978.
No. 12	Apr	1979.

- Item 4 Four separate printed pages: "Aircrew Association." According to an Aircrew letter to Soderberg, 7 Jan 1982, the "Aircrew was formed about four years ago in the village of Wool, in Dorset and later spread to other branches. One of the pages is an application for membership to the 'Air Crew Association.'"

- Item 5 Three printed, loose pages, containing book notes and one page about the Barbed Wire News.

- Item 6 The Kriegie, news-sheet of the Air Force Ex-POW Association. Editor: Cal Younger, Secretary: LJB Slattery, 181 Westway, London.

Leads, front pages:

No. 4 May 1964 We Burst into Print.

No. 5 Aug 1964	Banging the Drum for Len (Ludlam) (about the Midland Reunion).
No. 6 Nov 1964	Wings and Christmas.
No. 1 Apr 1965	96 Attend Reunion (20 th).
No. 8 Sep 1965	High Jinks in Toronto.
No. 9 Feb 1966	March Reunion.
No. 10 Jun 1966	Great Escape Memorial Service (25 th anniversary).
No. 11 Dec 1966	Photograph of Spangenberg, 1939.
No. 12 Apr 1967	Million Spent, Says George Brown. No Compensation for Sachsenhausen Prisoners (also contains auditor's report).
No. 13 Oct 1967	Stan Parris (w/photo).
No. 14 Feb 1968	George (Brown) to Pay under Protest.
No. 15 Mar 1968	Kriegies Crowd Reunion.
No. 16 Dec 1968	Home for Christmas.
No. 17	Missing.
No. 18 Jan 1970	Twenty-five Years Ago (also 14 Mar 1970 reunion).
No. 19 Jul 1970	Free Hess Move at AGM.
No. 20 Mar 1970	The Man Who Came to Dinner.
No. 21 Aug 1971	Postal Strike Spoils Reunion.
No. 22 Sep 1971	The editor says, "I'm Sorry". The Kriegie has been twelve months delayed. (AGM 4 Mar 1972 well-attended).
No. 23 Aug 1971	Larry Slattery - It can be noted that he became a historical POW personality since he was the first British to become a POW during WWII.
No. 24 Nov 1974	A Matter of Sorting out (backlog).
No. 25 Aug 1975	Pints All Round at the AGM.

No. 26 Mar 1976	Canada Reunion Issue.
No. 27 Dec 1977	Kiwi Reunion Issue (Met at Auckland).
No. 28 Sep 1978	The Most Moving Moment, "Dixie Reads from the Funeral Oration of Pericles."
No. 29 Feb 1978	Photograph, "In Typical Form: Wings with Perry Magwood."
No. 30 Sep 1981	"Charles Clarke Greets the Princess."
No. 31 Feb 1981	Association throws out shoot.
No. 32 Feb 1982	Photograph, Ken and Audrey (Bowden) meet the Duke of Edinburgh.
No. 33 Mar 1982	Photograph, "President Dixie Deans admires the presentation eagle from members of the association." It expresses their appreciation of his 40 years' service and inspiration to Kriegies during and since WWII.
No. 34 Feb 1983	Photograph of crowd of people, "Outside the Officer's Mess, Abingdon."
No. 35 Dec 1983	Dan London, a profile.

CARTON SEVEN**BOX EIGHT**

- Item 1 Bound book: A compilation of selected reports from inside Germany during 1943 and 1944. The YMCA delegates' reports had to be written in the German language and were censored, in fact, it could be noted that those reports always had to be censored by the Germans before they could be distributed to the outside world. The reports therefore became rather standardized and contain many gaps. Nevertheless they tell the story about the needs of the camps in relation to leisure time activities; they also give significant comments here and there about conditions, initiatives, cooperative attitudes from camp commandants, etc. Every camp visit had to be reported to the German authorities, to the YMCA. The Y delegates tried to be objective and write things as they saw them. After New Year's 1945, communications were very bad inside Germany, mail did not function and the situation became chaotic and many reports got lost at that time. Many of the reports were translated into English in the USA, copies were not available.

CARTON EIGHT

BOX EIGHT

- Item 1 In this carton, YMCA delegates in Germany, and their post-war reports/books. Jeg var in Faengsel, ("I Was in Prison"), by Christian Christiansen (Danish). Christiansen was a legendary YMCA delegate who was captured by the Russians at the end of the war and had to suffer for one year in various prisons in the Soviet Union.
- Item 2 Book, Erik R. Berg, Krigsfangar Och Andra ("POWS and Others"), in Swedish.
- Item 3 Book, Henry Soderberg, Over Granser Genom Sparrar ("Across Frontiers, Through Barriers"), in Swedish.
- Item 4 Book, O. Magnus Carlman, Och Sa Blev Tyskland Ockuperat ("And So Germany Was Occupied"), in Swedish.
- Item 5 Book, Erik Christensen, Vort Eneste Haab ("Our Only Hope"), in Danish.
- Item 6 "Report on the last days of the war," by Gunnar Celader, in Swedish.
- Item 7 "Report on the last month of the war," by Erik Berg, in Swedish.
- Item 8 "Service with the Prisoners of War," by Dr. Tracy Strong (Chapter 13) who was Secretary General of the World's Alliance of the YMCA during WWII. (Photocopied extracts from the History of the World Alliance of the Y by Clarence Prouty Shedd and others). Dr. Strong was the leader of all services by the Y during the war among prisoners, all over the world.
- Item 9 My Life with the YMCA, by Hugo Cedergren, Director of the War Prisoners' Aid of the Y in Europe during WWII. Of special interest is the chapter: "Bakom Taggtraden," "Behind Barbed Wire," which tells about Cedergren's efforts to keep the services going. The book also deals with his efforts to get in contact with the Russians both in London and Stockholm in order to have their permission to work with German POWs and correspondingly with Russian POWs in Germany. In Swedish.

CARTON NINE

Samples of POW camp magazines from WWII, American, British, South African, French, Belgian, and one German propaganda magazine. Paper for the magazines through the YMCA. The Germans arranged for printing in nearby local printing shops.

BOX NINE (See Box Seven also)

- Item 1 News magazines, The Oflag 64 Item, editor was Frank Diggs, later on Senior Editor, US News and World Report. "Largest Circulation inside the Wire," Altburgund, Germany, (US Army officers). Published monthly by and for American officers. Price 50 Pfg.

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| | No. 1 | Nov 1943. |
| | No. 2 | 1 Dec 1943 (Oflag's 6 month anniversary). |
| | No. 3 | 24 Dec 1943. |
| | No. 6 | 1 Apr 1944. |
| | No. 7 | 1 May 1944 (2 copies). |
| | No. 8 | 1 Jun 1944. |
| | No. 9 | 9 Jul 1944. |
| | No. 10 | 1 Aug 1944. |
| | No. 12 | Oct 1944. |
| Item 2 | Various POW magazines (only 3 items in English). | |
| | No. 1 | Monthly News Letter - Stalag VIIIB, Jan 1944. |
| | No. 2 | Monthly News Letter, Stalag VIIIB, Feb 1944. |
| | No. 3 | Untitled, undated newsletter, first page signed by Rev. Paul Brillart, Camp Chaplain. Also included are other bulletins, magazines in other languages. |
| Item 3 | News magazines in French, Nov 1943, and Sep-Oct 1944, (3 copies). | |
| Item 4 | News magazine, <u>Kamcha</u> , South Africa, printed in Afrikaans; most are in English. Stalag VIIIC. | |
| Item 5 | News magazine, <u>Willenberg Echo</u> , a camp magazine at Stalag XXB. Camp at Marienburg near Danzig. English. | |
| | No. 17 | Apr 1943. |
| | No. 20 | Aug 1943. |
| | No. 22 | Oct 1943. |
| | No. 23 | Nov 1943. |
| | No. 25 | Jan 1944. |
| | No. 27 | Mar 1944. |
| | No. 29 | May 1944. |
| | No. 34 | Oct 1944. |
| | No. 35 | Nov 1944. |
| Item 6 | Newspaper, <u>Le Diffuseur/Stalag IA</u> , (French) Stablack, East Prussia. | |

- Item 7 Magazine, Stalag Hot Pot, Stalag XXID's own magazine in English.
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| Vol. 2 | No. 1 | May 1943. |
| Vol. 2 | No. 2 | Jun 1943. |
| Vol. 2 | No. 4 | Aug 1943 (cover). |
| Vol. 2 | No. 6 | Oct 1943. |
| Vol. 2 | No. 7 | Nov 1943. |
| Vol. 2 | No. 8 | Dec 1943. |
| Vol. 2 | No. 9 | Jan 1944. |
| Vol. 3 | No. 1 | May 1944. |
| Vol. 3 | No. 2 | Jun 1944. |
| Vol. 3 | No. 3 | Jul 1944. |
| Vol. 3 | No. 4 | Aug 1944. |
- Item 8 Magazine, Regards/Wallons, (Belgium POW), Stalag VIIIC, Sagan, 7 issues, 1943-1944.
- Item 9 Magazine, The Clarion, Stalag 344 (Earlier VIIIB), Lamsdorf, British and "Imperial."
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|--------|---------------|-------------|
| No. 4 | Apr 1943. | |
| No. 5 | May 1943. | |
| No. 6 | Jun-Jul 1943. | |
| No. 7 | undated | (2 copies). |
| No. 8 | Jan 1944. | |
| No. 9 | Feb 1944. | |
| No. 11 | Apr 1944. | |
| No. 14 | Jul 1944 | (2 copies). |
| No. 15 | Aug 1944 | (2 copies). |
- Item 10 Magazine, Prisoner's Pie, Stalag XXA (Thorn) English, Editor, E.W. Hawley.
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| Jan 1943. |
| Mar 1943. |

Jun 1943.

Jul 1943.

Sep 1943.

Oct 1943.

Item 11 Newspaper: The Camp, issued by the Germans with 'built-in overtones.'

No. 175 5 Dec 1943.

No. 185 20 Feb 1943.

No. 215 24 Sep 1944.

CARTON TEN

BOX TEN

Item 1 Book, The YMCA and Prisoners of War, by Andre Vulliet, written in 1946 as an introductory statement of War Prisoners Aid Activities in WWII. The material for this report was furnished to the War Department at the request of the Provost Marshal General.

CARTON ELEVEN

BOX TEN

Item 1 Book, The YMCA and the Italian POW. The book contains a summary of events relating to the work of the War Prisoners' Aid of the Y.

CARTON TWELVE

BOX TEN

Item 1 The Oflag 64 Post War Items. Oflag 64 was located in the famous former British Air Force Camp at Szubin, Poland, fifty miles NE of Poznan. The camp held 450 officers throughout the summer of 1944, with an added influx in the fall months. After the war the OFLAG officers met regularly for reunions.

Items 2-3 Soderberg's original passports used during work among POWs in Germany and letters of recognition from three generals—Hap Arnold, Tooey Spaatz, Jacob Devers, and others; also a Soderberg story about the last days of the war. Published in Y magazine.

SERIES FOUR

MISCELLANEOUS

BOX ONE

Folder 5 Photocopy of newspaper clipping, Houston Post, 20 Dec 1988.

Memorandum by American prisoners held in German camps, 21 Jun 1945.

Reprints of chapter 24 from book, Escape from Germany, by Aidan Crawley.

Address given at memorial service for Dixie Dean, 6 May 1989.

One page of Oflag 64 Item, Vol. 21, No. 4, Sep 1985, includes article noting Soderberg's intentions to contribute his memorabilia to the USAF Academy Library.