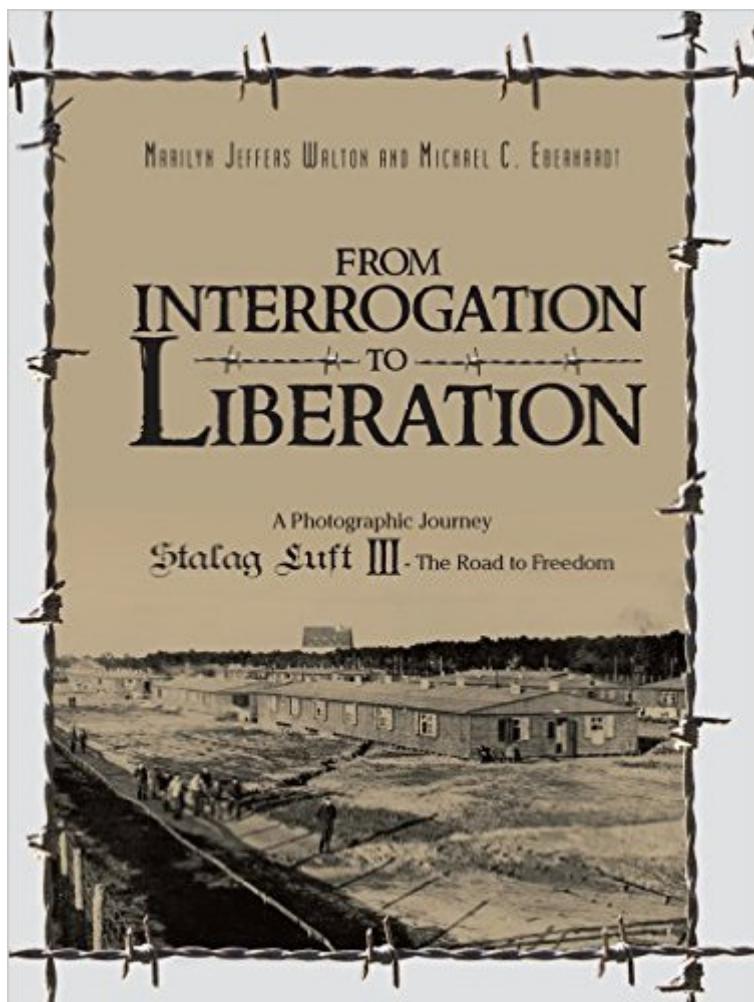


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# From Interrogation To Liberation: A Photographic Journey Stalag Luft III - The Road To Freedom



## Synopsis

During World War II, 300,000 United States Army Air Corps airmen were shot down. Of that number, 51,000 were prisoners of war or listed as missing in action. Bombardiers, positioned in the vulnerable bombardiers' compartment at the front of the aircraft, were in high demand. The authors' fathers were two such bombardiers, one on a B-17 and the other on a B-24. Like so many of the post-war generation, the authors traveled on their own emotional journeys to reconstruct their fathers' WWII experiences. Their fathers fought in the flak-ridden blue battlefield, and like thousands of other airmen shot out of the sky, became prisoners of war. They would endure deprivation, loneliness, and great peril. Held at Stalag Luft III, where the Great Escape of movie fame took place, they, along with the British, were eventually force marched 52-miles in the dead of winter to Spremberg, Germany, and loaded onto overcrowded, filthy, boxcars, the Americans to be taken to Stalag VIIA in Moosburg, Germany, or to Stalag XIII-D in Nürnberg. Languishing until their liberation in barbaric conditions with nearly 120,000 international POWs, they witnessed the death throes of the Third Reich. With many sons and daughters trying to explore the wartime histories of their loved ones, the authors supply crucial information and insight regarding the World War II POW experience in Europe. Often times, by necessity, that experience reflects the co-existence and tenuous relationship with the Germans holding them. In this book, there are stories that up until now have not been heard, and there are hundreds of pictures, many previously unseen, illustrating the prisoners' plight. This book is a documentation of riveting history and a chance to vicariously live the war, told through their voices --echoes now fading with time. Their sacrifices to ensure precious freedom should never be forgotten.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Marilyn Jeffers Walton and Mike Eberhardt have combined their talents in such a magnificent way in the publication of this photographic journey through the years of Allie's confinement at Stalag Luft III. We have heard many stories of our heroic prisoners and we have seen numerous photographs of the same, but now you can match the story with the photograph and that has made all the difference in our understanding and appreciation of what these men endured for freedom's sake. A picture is truly worth a thousand words. The photographs jump off the pages as you read the accompanying accounts of the characters portrayed. You will develop an even greater appreciation for these men and their contributions to maintain freedom for future generations to come. We can not allow our heroes to go unnoticed and pass on to be long forgotten. These brave men gave all they had to preserve the freedom we enjoy today world wide. Many paid the ultimate price with their lives. Other remained behind to relive the pain and suffering they had to endure while captive. And yet in the photographs portrayed, the American spirit shown through and told all who saw that they would not be defeated and in the end they would overcome. To preserve the story of their great sacrifices, you must know the true account of what took place during these dark years. Be a constant reminder to all who will listen that freedom does come at a very steep price and it can be lost so quickly if we aren't alert. In many cases, their families had to live with the loss of a son, brother or husband. Many deceased would never be seen ever again. And the final chapter of their lives would go unclosed.

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