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July 3, 2008

Ms. Jean Prescott
The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
175 Bourne Ave.
Pooler, GA 31322

Dear Ms. Prescott:

During WWII, my father, the late Major General Henry Russell Spicer, Ret., was Commander of the 357th Fighter Group based in England and was shot down in his P-51 Mustang over the English Channel. He was captured March 5, 1944 by the Germans and held for almost a year at Stalag Luft I, where he was the Commanding Officer of North 2 Compound. After he had been there about six months, he gave a speech to his men and it earned him solitary confinement and a death sentence. The camp was liberated by Soviet troops on the night of April 30, 1945, the day before he was to meet the firing squad. Here is a website link where there is information and stories from POWs that knew my father during this time: <http://www.merkki.com/spicerruss.htm>

While there my father acquired a stitchery kit from the American Red Cross. This is an embroidered picture on linen of an English Garden using several basic stitches including backstitch, split and stem stitches, chain and satin stitches and French knots, hundreds of them! The piece itself is 10.5" x 8.25" and framed under non-glare glass it is 19" x 16" overall. Please note the backside of the framing where my father signed and dated it and also attached a "1st Place" award for Needle Craft, given by a judge(s) in a POW Art Show.

It is our family's wish that this unique stitchery created under very unusual circumstances, be given as a gift to the Museum's collection of POW artifacts. We trust that you will find it a safe place where others can enjoy and appreciate it for years to come.

Respectfully,

Susan Spicer