

CHERE MAMO GOES TO PRESS

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CREATIVE THOUGHT

ART WORK

Big footprints

Her father always told her, "someday you'll understand," and now Nina Wolff Feld '84 is plumbing his story. *Chère Mamo, Letters from a Charmed Life* is Feld's project and passion, an unfurling of father Walter Wolff's years as a GI.

Serving as translator, historian, writer, Web designer, and archivist from the unique perspective of a devoted daughter, art major Feld is mining 700 pages of letters, photographs, medical records, and telegrams that represent Wolff's tenure in Army intelligence from 1943 to 1946. From that vast content, she has drawn the substance for a manuscript and a compelling Web site (cheremamo.com) that illustrates her father's time in uniform in narrative, music, photographs, audio, and video.

Jewish and German by birth, Wolff had expected to fight in WWII, but his family fled Nazi-occupied Europe and came to the United States in 1941. A year and a half later, Wolff, then 18, entered the US Army.

"From being a Jew on the run in Europe to



occupying a position of authority in the US Army Intelligence Corps, my father went from being persecuted to prosecuting his oppressors," says Feld. "With his fluency in five languages, his job was to interrogate German POWs and separate war criminals from average German combat troops. He took satisfaction in sending prominent Nazis to stand trial at Nuremberg." Wolff also sorted through some of Mussolini's papers.

"It was a miracle my dad lived through it," says Feld, who adds that her father spoke very little about his experiences but that she has traveled to trace many of his steps to add depth to her research. In fact, *Chère Mamo* has transformed Feld's life. "I am completely involved," she says. "My creative world has been blown wide open." —Helen S. Edelman '74



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