

POST OFLAG 64 ITEM

SPRING 2004

Pittsburgh, PA 2004

Jerry Alexis is working on the reunion to be held in Pittsburgh in 2004. He has contacted several hotels in Pittsburgh and will provide information as time goes on.

Jerry can be contacted at:

Jerry Alexis
719 Fourth St
Beaver Falls, PA 156010
Pho: 724/891-2338
Email: ejalexis@juno.com

Ft Lauderdale, FL 2005

Ft. Lauderdale, FL was selected as the site for the reunion in 2005. Irv Solotoff volunteered to be the host for 2005 and Rosa (Di Francesco) Lee volunteered to help him. Irv was Abe Baum's interpreter during the Task Force Baum raid and Minneapolis was his first reunion.

Irv can be contacted at:

Irv Solotoff
13355 SW 9th Court # 213
Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
Pho: 954/435-7600

Rosa can be contacted at:

Rosa Lee
3117 N Indian River Drive
At. Lucie Village
Ft Pierce, FL 34946
E:mail: RoyTree50@aol.com

PUBLICATIONS

POSTAGE FUND DONORS 2004

The Waters Story \$19.50
 My Tour of Russia \$ 5.00
 The Men of Oflag 64 \$ 20.00
 The Oflag 64 Directory \$ 3.00
 Oflag 64 Audio Tape \$ 5.00
 Original Roster-Oflag 64 \$10.00
 Tribute to TF Baum \$15.00
 Hammelburg Roster \$ 7.50
 Make check out to Oflag 64 PF and
 mail to the Editor.

In the Presence of Mine Enemies \$10.00
 Make check payable to and send to:
 Mrs. Rose Daniels
 5100 Sharon Road. Apt 603
 Charlotte. NC 28210-4720

Vic Kanners Diary---FREE
 Contact- Dave Kanners
 1141 Pine Ridge Court
 Rochester, MN 48306

Americans Behind the Barbed Wire-By Frank Diggs
 New Price....\$22.00 (includes shipping)
 Contact: Vandemere Press
 P.O. Box 5243
 Clearwater, FL 22205

Press Releases -----\$10.95
 Ted Roggen
 101 Westcott
 Houston, TX 77007

Bob Christensen
 Ron Green
 Di Francesco Family
 Jerry Alexis
 Robert Galloway
 Ormond Roberts
 Bob O'Neill
 John Albree
 Jim Sudmeier
 Brad Bradford
 Alex Kershaw
 John Creech
 Ed Rooney
 John Albree
 Herm Littman

Editor- Bob Thompson
 7448 E 68th Place
 Tulsa, OK 74133
 Pho: 918/250-0897

We lost our good friend Irv Yarock
 RIP Good Friend

Treasurer- Joe Seringer
 1930 Edwards
 Wooster, OH 44091
 Pho: 330/345-5878

Guest Editor- Pat (Di Francesco) Bender
 7039 McCallum St
 Philadelphia, PA 19191
 Pho: 215/242-5504

Contributing Editor- Bill Warthen
 P.O.Box L
 Vidalia, GA 30474
 Pho: 912/537-

2004 Reunion Chairman- Jerry Alexis
 719 Fourth St
 Beaver Falls. PA 156010
 Pho: 724/891-2338

MAIL CALL

Bob O'Neill, Prescott, AZ... Bob has moved from Scottsdale to Prescott, AZ. and his new address is:

Bob O'Neill
1716 Alpine Meadows Ln # 507
Prescott, AZ 86303-4976
Pho No...928/708-1644

Bob sent is a donation to the postage fund for which we are grateful.

Marvin Chevalier, Coralville, IA missed the reunion in Mnpls because of a wrestling tournament in NYC that he had prior commitments to attend. He promised to be in Pittsburgh next fall. We'll be looking for you, Marvin!

Bud Bolling, Dallas, TX was on the way to the reunion in Mnpls and got sick at the DFW airport and had to return home. Bud is a new name to most of us. He was at Hammelburg and made his way back to the front lines and returned to US control. Bud says we can count on him being at Pittsburgh next fall.

Dr Vincent Di Francesco, Bethesda, MD says his family just loves the Oflag 64 reunions. The families of the Oflag 64 men are becoming a great part of the reunions. The families of the men really enjoyed the ...kids night out...@ Mnpls.

Clarence Meltesen, San Francisco, CA writes about his work on the new edition of the "ROADS TO LIBERATION FROM OFLAG 64". It seems he is ready for a publisher and could use some help finding one. Any one got any ideas? Contact Clarence at...Clarence Meltesen, 810 Gonzales Drive Apt 4-D, San Francisco, CA 94132..pho no: 415/584-0389

Herb Garris, Pinehurst NC writes that Bob Christensen is in an advanced stage of Alzheimer in a facility at Pinehurst. Barbara moved in to the suite with him. Herb enclosed a check from Bob for the postage fund. Thanks, Bob

Ron Green, Roland AR, writes about his father and some papers he found in his father's belongings, Ron's letter is in this issue of the Item and I think he would appreciate hearing from some of the men that may have known him. Ron sent along a very generous donation to the Postage Fund. Thanks, Ron.

Jerry Alexis, Beaver Falls PA, writes ,passing along his new address and pho no. It is..Jerry Alexis, 719 4th St, Beaver Falls, PA 15010...pho no: 724/891-2338. Jerry also sends along a donation to the postage fund. Thanks, Jerry.

Carroll Higginbotham, Fallon, NV sends along a photo of a violin he made. He made a violin and presented it to Abe Baum at our reunion in Laughlin, NV a few years ago. Keep up the good work "Higgy".

Robert Galloway, Charleston, SC sends along a donation to the postage fund and best wishes for the new year. Charleston ,SC, was recently mentioned as one of the most polite cites in the USA. The Pat Waters and the Robert Galloway family probably contribute a lot to this decision.

Roy & Helen Chapelle, The Woodlands, TX. Helen and Roy are still laid up in a respite facility in Houston, TX. They both had back operations last summer and were recuperating when it was discovered that Helen would have to be operated on again. They have had a long spell of being laid up and could probably use some encouraging words. They are at : EDEN BROOK, 1730 Woodshead Ct, The Woodlands, TX 77380, pho no: 832/813-0261

MAIL CALL

Dr. John Creech, Columbus, NC ordered the book " Gen Waters Story " for a friend of his. John mentioned that Irving Yarock was the band director of the College and ROTC Marching Band at Rhode Island University when he was a student and was playing in the band. They were also in the First Division together in North Africa.

Brad Bradford, Grove City, OH, said he was sorry he missed the reunion in MNPLS but guaranteed he would be in Pittsburg next fall. Brad sent in some literature, but for space reasons, we had to postpone it's appearance in the Item this time, maybe next time, Brad sent in a donation to the postage fund and we are grateful.

Herb Garris, Pinehurst NC sent in a book review which is in the Item Issue. Herb, we missed you last fall. Start making your plans to be in Pittsburgh next fall.

Errol Johnson, New Haven, KY sends in a donation to the Postage fund via Herb Garris. Thanks, Errol

Ted Roggen, Houston, TX checks in and sends a poem from Mary Virginia Pittman-Waller dedicated to Dr Pittman a BOB Veteran.

Ormond Roberts, Worcester, MA wants to know if anybody knew a Capt. Scott or Hall Robert, who was in the 106th ID. He was one of the POW's killed at the Christmas Eve Bombing at Limburg. He was Ormond's cousin. Ormond can be contacted at : 70 Briarwood Cir ,Apt 220, Worcester, MA 1606-1248. Ormond sends in a donation to the PF. Thanks.

Joe Serringer ,Cocoa Beach FL is still the winter home of our treasurer. He plans to come home in April and will contact Jerry Alexis to see if he can help with the reunion next fall in Pitt.

Jim Sudmeier, Boston MA. Jim is a research chemist with Tufts University in Boston and is a fan of Oflag 64 and Oflag XIII B. He attended our reunion last fall and will probably attend the next one in Pitt, He is at present writing a screenplay for the long march and the raid on Hammelburg. We sent him a lot of information in the form of letters, diaries, US Army documents and German Army documents, etc.

George Juskalian, Centreville, VA sent in an obit of Frank Diggs. Several of our members have sent in Frank's obit and we appreciate each one of them. Frank had a lot of friends and all of us had a lot of respect for Frank. George was one of the men in the photo of the mini- reunion at Frank's club in VA. A photo of this occasion is on another page of this issue.

Rosa (Di Francesco) Lee, Ft Pierce, FL, writes that she and her family really enjoy the Ollag 64 reunions. It appears that all the next generation get a real kick out of them. She has contacted Irv Solotoff about the reunion In FT Lauderdale, FL and she and Irv will have some preliminary info in the future.

Don and Lucy Lussenden, Livonia, MI, are back on their feet and ready to go to Pittsburgh. Don had a rather serious event in the hospital but has recovered and is up and walking around.

Vinton Thomson, Jackson, MS, sends a note with his new address effective Mar 1, 2004 .

4613 South Flamingo Dr
Seabrooke, TX 77586

He also says that he and his good friend ,Donna, will be at Pittsburgh this fall. Donna was born in the Pittsburgh area and this will be like returning home for her.

REGISTRATION FORM



2004 Oflag 64 Reunion
Pittsburgh PA
29 September - 2 October
Holiday Day Inn Greentree

Name as you want it on name tag

Spouse or other attending

Other attending

Other attending

Your address

Telephone

e-mail

Your unit

Place and date of capture

Point of liberation (circle) - Oflag 64, en route, Luckenwald, Hammelburg,
Nurnburg, Moosburg, Odessa, Other _____

+++++

Registration fee - \$125 per person; number _____ \$ _____

Canterbury Dinner Theater - \$49 pp; number _____ \$ _____

American Heroes Tour - \$60 pp; number _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to Rev. Edward J. Alexis and mail to 719 4th St.,
Beaver Falls PA 15010-3001 no later than 8 Sept.

**Reminder - you must make your own hotel reservations, also due by 8
September. See reunion information sheet.**

810 Gonzalez Dr, Apt 4-D
San Francisco, CA 94132

22 February 2004

Dear Bob (Thompson, Warthen, Garris):

Progress of a sort in the printing of Roads, 3rd Edition now that I have finished out the draft manuscript. I'm up to my ears in options:

A cold letter offering Roads to Penguin Books for their publication.

A negotiation with a printer in Ohio offering shipping and marketing services for a price.

A lead to a Literary agent in town that might be just what I need.

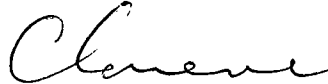
An offer of a warehouse space and mailing service for the printed book.

No great ideas on advertising and distribution plans.

There is a possibility of having the finished product for sale by October. My greatest wish is that it will be put out by a publisher with advertising that reaches exPOWs and next of kin plus any WWII buffs in spite of the current show in Iraq and memoirs starting to pour out from that.

Hope all is well with you and yours.

Sincerely yours,



Clarence R. Meltesen
Lt Col USA Ret



2004 Oflag 64 Reunion Pittsburgh PA
29 September - 3 October
Holiday Inn Greentree

WELCOME

to Pittsburg and western Pennsylvania, America's first gateway to the West - the focus of the French and Indian War - the launching point of the Lewis and Clark expedition - the pioneer producer of iron, steel, coal, glass, petroleum, aluminum, and nuclear power - center of education, medical and pure research, and the arts - the arsenal of democracy and supplier of military manpower throughout our nation's history - and some of the most friendly people in the world!

Schedule

Wed., 29 Sept. - 1:00 P.M. Registration, Hospitality Room open

Thurs., 30 Sept. - 9:00 A.M. Registration, Hospitality Room open

6:15 P.M. Depart for Canterbury Dinner Theater

Seating 6:30/ Buffet Dinner 7:00/ Show 8:00

A RIDICULOUSLY CONCISE HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH
by steel citizens

This fast-paced, laugh-a-second show will take you on a wildride through the 'dahn tahn' of the present-day 'Burgh and perhaps even into the future. Events, sports, and politics are all on the agenda of this original show. (Optional - \$49 pp; maybe cancelled if minimum number is not met.)

Fri., 1 Oct. - 9:00 A.M. - Breakfast buffet, business meeting

1:00 - 5:00 P.M. - City tour of some of Pittsburgh's most fascinating sites, including the Heinz History Center, Soldiers and Sailors Museum, and the Nationality Classrooms at the University of Pittsburgh. (Both included in registration fee.)

Evening - on your own.

Sat., 2 Oct. -

8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. - American Heroes/Laurel Highlands tour. A visit to the site of the 9/11 Flight 93 temporary memorial and Flight 93 Memorial Chapel. You may want to leave a memento (flower, flag, e.g.) at the memorial. Tour members receive a commemorative pin at the site and a donation is made to the Flight 93 Memorial Fund. Smorgasbord luncheon at the Oakhurst Tea Room. A visit to the Quecreek Mine Rescue Site with narration by the owners of the farm. All this in the setting of the beautiful fall foliage of the Laurel Highlands. (Optional - \$60 pp.; may be cancelled if minimum number is not met.)

5:30 - 9:30 P.M. - Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise on Pittsburgh's three rivers - Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio. included in registration fee.

Sun., 3 Oct. - 9:00 A.M. Breakfast and memorial service. Included in registration fee.

Hotel Reservations

You must make your own reservations at the Holiday Inn Greentree. Be sure to mention they are for the Oflag 64 reunion. Also be prepared to give the airline, flight number, date, and arrival time if you need the free airport shuttle. The Inn's address is 401 Holiday Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15220. The reservation phone number is 412-922-8100. Press option 2. If you indicate you are traveling by car, directions will be mailed to you.

Important - Reservations must be received by 8 September! The rates per person for room, tax, and baggage handling are as follows:

Three nights - Single, \$279; Double, \$169; Triple, \$129; Quad, \$99.

Four nights - Single, \$349; Double, \$209; Triple, \$149; Quad, \$119.

Further information needed?

Contact your reunion host, Jerry Alexis, 719 4th Street, Beaver Falls PA 15010-3001; telephone 724-891-2338; e-mail ejalexis@juno.com.

JUST A COUPLE OF INTERESTING PHOTOS



U.S. NEWS
& WORLD REPORT

2300 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 861-2318

7 Nov 03

Carrol Higginbotham is the only violin maker we have in our group so we had better recognize him when we get the chance. "Higgy" made a violin and presented it to Abe Baum at our reunion in Laughlin, NV, a few years ago.

Bob --

Kriegies in the Washington area put on a mini reunion of their own last month. Organized by Wilbur Sharpe, in his usual efficient way, it was a luncheon held at my country club here in Arlington, with six kriegies and one wife attending. Included were: Wilbur, George Juskalian and his lovely wife, Al Moss, Don Graul, Dr. Vince DiFrancisco and Frank Diggs. I reported on the Minneapolis reunion and there were several familiar war stories. The attached photos were taken by Mrs. Juskalian. Thought you might be interested.

Cheers,
Frank

J. FRANK DIGGS

2/5/04

Dear Mr Seringer:

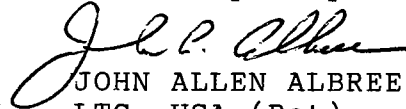
My name is John Allen Albree. I was Aide-de-Camp to then BG John K Waters in Korea in 1952. My wife and I were also stationed at Fort Hood, Texas when General Waters was in the 4th Armored Div. It was at Hood that my wife and got to know the Generals two sons, Pat and John Waters.

I now live at Tryon Estates in Columbus, NC. I have become good friends here with John Creech, also of OFLAG 64.

John gave the Winter 2003 POST OFLAG 64 ITEM to read. Since I attended the funeral of General Waters in the Maryland countryside, I came to see first hand the love that all former POWs have for each other.

In memory of John K Waters and in honor of John Creech, I am enclosing a contribution to your OFLAG 64 Fund.

With deep respect and admiration,


JOHN ALLEN ALBREE
LTC, USA (Ret)

JOHN ALLEN ALBREE
621 Laurel Lake Drive
Unit B-330
Columbus, NC 28722-7435

828-894-2783

This is Col. Millett's
daughter

~~GERARD M. DEVLIN~~ Gerard M. Devlin
2 Mirabell Court
Bluffton, SC 29910-4760
U.S.A.

Dear Nancy

Tel. (843) 757-7598

12-17-03

Thanks ever so much for your call of yesterday giving me the incredibly good news that one of your dad's classmates, Major General Bassett, was residing right there in the same building as your mom.

Wow, what are the odds of that happening? Probably a few gazillion to one.

Because of the general's advanced age (he's now 96 and one of only three members of the Class of 1929 still alive), I decided to seize the moment (or as one of my brother-in-laws would say, I "grabbed" the moment) by telephoning him last night. And just as soon as we began speaking, I could tell he's still very sharp and has an excellent memory.

He told me the story about how, back in that hot summer of 1929 after spending a few weeks at home on furlough with his parents in Illinois following graduation from West Point, he took a train out to California where he had to report to March Field to begin flight school. Never having been to California before, he stepped off the train in what was then the little one-horse town of Riverside and began asking some of the locals how to get out to March Field. And that's when he was pleasantly surprised to see your dad suddenly walk up and greet him. Seems that your dad knew the train from Illinois would be arriving at that time and had thoughtfully gone to the station to see if any of his classmates might need a lift out to the base.

Gen. Bassett went on to tell me your dad had already been at March Field for two days and that he also had a car. So they loaded all the luggage in the back seat and drove the 12 desolate miles leading to the isolated training base way out in the boondocks.

At this point in his fascinating story, Gen. Bassett related how he and your dad (along with everyone else in their student flying detachment) was delighted to discover that March Field was being thoroughly modernized with new housing facilities most of which were still under construction. Therefore, he and your dad were the first two occupants of a brand new BOQ where they shared spacious adjoining rooms which had carpeted floors, brightly painted walls, and large picture windows overlooking the vast and beautiful surrounding countryside. Best of all, separating their two rooms was a kitchenette equipped with life's most modern conveniences. Including their own stove and refrigerator, no less.

After having just lived four long and difficult years in West Point's barren, Spartan-like, granite block, cadet quarters your dad and his roomie must have felt like they'd just moved into the Ritz.

Just like everyone else I've talked with about your famous dad, Gen. Bassett said, "He was an awfully nice guy who would give anyone the shirt of his back." "Who else," asked Gen. Bassett, "would be so considerate as to drive all the way down to that train station just to give a friend a lift?"

While talking further with the general, I learned that out of some 100 members of the Class of 1929 who applied for flight training, only 30 successfully completed that extraordinarily difficult course.

He also told me that choosing the career of a military pilot almost cost him his life when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor early in the morning of December 7, 1941. At that time, Bassett was a newly promoted captain stationed at Hawaii's Wheeler Field which - although situated on high terrain located several miles inland from both Pearl Harbor and the much larger Hickham Field down by the shoreline - was right on the flight path of all those Japanese dive bombers heading to attack our battleships ever so neatly tied up in the harbor.

Not only was Wheeler Field directly on the enemy's flight path leading to Pearl Harbor, it was - like Hickham Field - also one of their subsidiary targets for that day. Accordingly, Wheeler (along with Hickham) was blasted to kingdom come. All of Wheeler's fighter airplanes were quickly and methodically destroyed even before one of them could get into the air. And Bassett himself was very nearly killed while trying to escape the rain of Japanese bombs exploding all over the place.

Well Nancy, that wraps up the report of my conversation with Gen. Bassett. I'll also be sending him a letter with a few more questions about life as it was at West Point in the Class of 1929. Will also ask him for names of those other two living grads.

Again, thanks for telling me about the general being there in San Antonio.

Best,

Jerry

#5

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year.

December 16, 2003

After all the fire devastation, it made me think of my Mother when she left her prison camp in WWII. My Mother Sally Blaine Millett was one of the 66 women captured in WWII. She endured almost 3 years as a POW of the Japanese. She was an Army nurse and cared for both Americans and Japanese injured during the war. Upon her release from Santa Tomas, all her worldly possessions could be put in one pocket of her uniform. It consisted of one well worn comb and a very used lipstick. Over the years and many moves later, the latest one being to a retirement home at age 88 years. We laughed and said how much easier the move would have been if she had only her comb and lipstick. Long live my "Bataan Angel" Mother.

← Col. Millett's daughter

Nancy Vaughn Millett - Zelenack
9860 Oak Ridge Road
Escondido, California
92026
760-749-9652

Subj: Re: TEST MESSGE
Date: 2/26/04 4:06:30 PM Central Standard Time
From: rwhit0007@aol.com
Reply-to: HAMMELBURGPOW@topica.com
To: HAMMELBURGPOW@topica.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Bob,
Tell Julian that Abe Baum has a package for the upgrade from his DSC, to the Medal of Honor, being reviewed by the Pentagon Staff now. It was submitted by me to Congressman Wexler in late 2002 and they forwarded it on to the Pentagon Staff for final approval. There were only three out of over one hundred packets submitted that were sent on so it look's like there is a good chance it will make it. Only problem.....it could be another three years before we know. I am the fellow who wrote the articles on the 50th Anniversary of the Raid after following the task force route and interviewing eye witnesses in Germany. It was through me that Bob Thompson finally made contact with Abe Baum and got him over to the Las Vegas, and subsequent Offlag 64 reunions.
Best regards,
Dick Whitaker, Author, Historian
Los Gatos, Ca

as I promised.
 Dear
 Best wishes,
 Louise
 Leo

Local Author's Revelations on Korea 'Fascinating'

Eye on Korea
 By James V. Young
 Texas A&M Press, 2003 \$34

BY HERB GARRIS
 Special to The Pilot

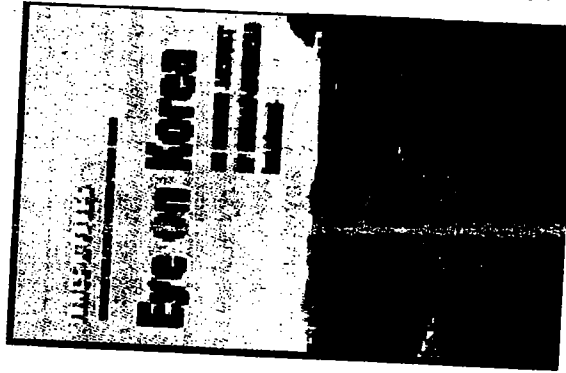
Many, like this reviewer, who have served in Korea will find this book fascinating. The author had the good fortune to become a foreign area specialist and his many years of service took him to both North and South Korea. Quietly obvious to the reader are the keen observations Young makes of Korea's people, government, the culture and specifically the Korean Army. He witnessed closely a growing democracy face a coup, which brought on a period of military law. It later returned civilian control. The constant threat of a dictatorial leadership has always and for 50 years still remains intact, just as dangerous as ever. Young's full fluency in the Korean language — a most difficult language — is a rarity

among career soldiers today. This made the Koreans easily accept him with great confidence among his peers and seniors. His dedication was highly valued as he served three ambassadors and the U.S. Army Staff leadership.

At near mid-point in Young's career was his attendance as a student to the Army's Command and General staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he organized an impressive agenda and provide a better training base for others assigned to Korean duty. It is still valued and in place today.

He with no hesitation revealed the many difficulties faced daily by the Department of State and the Department of Defense in their vital management roles in the field of Foreign Service. He pointed out one similar in the quandary with the Korean government officials.

Upon his retirement, Young



was requested by Gen. Richard Stillwell, USA Ret., a former head of US Forces in Korea, to join him in a very complex and vital mission to attempt to address and focus the need for attention to better North Korean cooperation in the security of

the Northern Peninsula.

He found the Northern delegates suspicious, uncooperative, less than well informed and so compartmentalized that Young was left with the distinct impression that the present leader, Kim Jung II, like his father before him, has and continues to tease and meddle with nuclear weapons development and testing in the adjacent Sea of Japan.

The author still commands great respect and esteem in Korea as he represents many American corporations in their trade interests.

In short, this is a well written and easy to read story which will be invaluable to students of the Far East, and especially to those who may be deployed. It is highly recommended for reading. It is "a job well done."

Herb Garriss is a Pinehurst resident and former World War II prisoner of war.

This was the original of the speech, by President Roosevelt, made to Congress declaring war on Japan. All the chicken tracks were made by FDR.

DRAFT No. 1

December 7, 1941.

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in ~~world history~~ ^{infamy}
the United States of America was ~~suddenly~~ ^{suddenly} and deliberately attacked
by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan ~~with out warning~~

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was
~~still in~~ ^{still in} conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking
toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after
Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in ~~Hawaii and the Philippines~~ ^{Dahu}

the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered
to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a ~~former~~ ^{recent American} message, ~~from the~~

~~Secretary~~ ^{While} ~~This reply contained a statement that diplomatic negotiations~~ ^{started} ~~must be considered at an end, but~~ ^{it} contained no threat ~~and no~~ ^{or} hint of ~~an~~ ^{war or}
armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance ~~between~~ ^{was} ~~and especially~~ of
Hawaii from Japan make ^{it} obvious that the ~~attack~~ ^{was} deliberately
~~planned many days ago.~~ ^{or 10 or 14 weeks} During the intervening time the Japanese Govern-
ment has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false
statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

Handwritten notes on the right margin:
- "infamy" with an arrow pointing to the word in the first paragraph.
- "Dahu" written above the word "Dahu" in the second paragraph.
- "While" written above the word "While" in the third paragraph.
- "started" written above the word "started" in the third paragraph.
- "it" written above the word "it" in the third paragraph.
- "or" written above the word "or" in the third paragraph.
- "war or" written above the words "war or" in the third paragraph.
- "was" written above the word "was" in the fourth paragraph.
- "or 10 or 14 weeks" written above the words "or 10 or 14 weeks" in the fourth paragraph.

The attack ^{the Hawaiian Islands} yesterday on ~~Manila and on the Island of Oahu~~ ^{has}

caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ~~ships~~ ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

of last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.
Japan has, therefore, undertaken a "surprise offensive extending ^{throughout the Philippines}

throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications ~~of these~~ ^{of these} attacks ^{to} ^{the} ^{safety} of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have ~~of course~~ directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Long will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

(A) No matter how long it may take us to overcome this precipitated invasion, the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.

I speak the will of the Congress and of the people ~~of this~~
~~country~~ when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to
 the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall
 never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no mincing
 the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in
 grave danger.

I, therefore, ask that the Congress declare that since the
 unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December
 seventh, a state of war ^{has} exist^{ed} between the United States and the
 Japanese Empire.

*Give people in
 full confidence*

(100th year of life) Colonel, Wor

the blood-spattered fields of V
er forests of the Ardennes
of white crosses at Mametz
at the shores of Normandy
of Korea
from the monsoon soaked jungles of Vietnam
to the land-mined arid sands of Iraq...
Those fallen warriors-
They come...
It could've been you!

II. Those beautiful souls....
Those lives...
They paved the way...they paid the price...
for you ..to love and laugh..and whine and cry..
and march and bicker...argue and shout..
and contemplate memories of joy and life's strife,
and, live your life your way...
But, are you worthy of the gift?
What is your life doing today?
Remember...
It could've been you!

III. Mob riot of irrational anger is anarchy
veiled in a misguided movement called "Peace"...
But, real Peace is not a response to complacency nor anger.
First they must be Victory over tyranny!
Then, Peace follows Victory, but victory comes at a heavy toll.....
Complacency is not freedom but cowardice
True freedom is not free...
It comes with a choice...
discipline to maintain its integrity
for all of mankind to share...

IV. I love my county, and the land on which it stands...
Therefore, that flag-draped box..
from the gray belly of the air-transport is mine...
and mourn...
are Red, White, and Blue
the thing...
been you

German Voller June 2003

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Baltimore, MD 21218-2686
USA

Mr. Bob Thompson
7448 E 68th Place
Tulsa, OK 74122

12/7/07

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter, which awaited me upon my return from the Thanksgiving recess.

I did not belong to the guard company, but to the much smaller group of interpreters that was housed in a different building. Our job was to censor letters and stamp them, be they going out or coming in. Sometimes I was assigned to the parcel hut where I met Tony Lumpkin and Amon Carter.

I was, born as I was in 1922, about the youngest soldier at the Oflag. The men in the guard detachment were about 15 to 20 years older than I, and I doubt whether any of them is still alive. I could not tell you how many of them were with you on January 21, for I had been transferred back to the interpreters' company in Posen about January 5.

Oflag 64 turned out to be my good luck and probably let me survive the war. For I got marching orders to it, but the railroad line to Schubin had already been interrupted by the Russians. So I took the train to Berlin, assuming you would be marching west. My comrades at the interpreters company stayed in Posen, could not get out and probably were killed or captured by the Russians where they were likely to die, as was the fate of many German POWs.

Thanks for inviting me to the Pittsburg reunion, which I hope to be able to attend.

Kind regards,

Gottfried
Gottfried Dietze

12/24/03

Mr. Bob Thompson
7448 E 68th Place
Tulsa OK 74133

As you can see from the attach newspaper clipping, my day, Major Joseph R. Green, (US Army Ret.) is no longer with us. He suffered for about two years with Alzheimer's disease and then late in the process suffered several sever strokes.

I have been going through some of his papers and ran across three or four old issues of the Oflag 64 newsletter. I would like to order a copy of The Men of Oflag 64 and The Oflag Directory. I have included a check for \$250.00 to cover the cost of the materials and the rest as a donation to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund.

The last month are so has been very interesting as I learned things about my father that I did not previously know. He spoke very little of his time in North Africa and his POW years. I know from a few conversations that he was a good friend with Amon Carter and Hollis B Wood but know of no others. I was surprised to learn that the camp was as large as it was, 1500 men.

I would like to know what he did while he was in camp, what barracks he was in and any general information you may have on him.

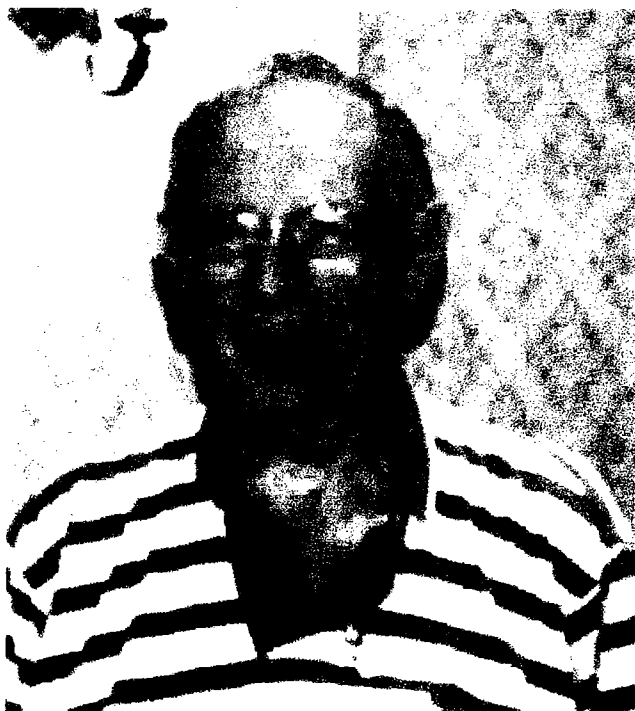
Thanks

Ron Green
14421 Hwy 300
Roland AR 72135
jrgreen@aristotle.net

Subj: obit, J. Frank Diggs
Date: 2/2/04 12:09:12 PM Central Standard Time
From: CHURCHMAN@nwf.org
To: tho7448@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

washingtonpost.com
J. Frank Diggs; U.S. News Senior Editor

Thursday, January 29, 2004; Page B05



Frank @ Columbus Reunion Fall 2002

J. Frank Diggs, 86, who retired in 1982 as senior editor at U.S. News & World Report, died of pneumonia Jan. 26 at Virginia Hospital Center-Arlington.

Mr. Diggs served 37 years on the U.S. News staff, where his coverage included the Bikini nuclear bomb tests in the Pacific after World War II, earthquakes in South America, military affairs in Europe, Soviet missiles in Cuba and archeology, which also was his avocation. His longest piece was a 13-page interview with Navy Cmdr. John McCain, now a Republican senator from Arizona, about his 5 1/2 years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Before joining U.S. News, Mr. Diggs was a World War II Army officer. He was wounded and taken prisoner by a

German panzer division in Sicily and for 18 months was held in a prisoner of war camp in northern Poland. There he founded and edited a monthly POW newspaper, which consisted of war news reported by incoming POWs, and sanitized German accounts of the war. With food scarce, he lost about 40 pounds but remained otherwise in good health.

As the Soviet army advanced into Poland, the Germans ordered all prisoners marched west into Germany. On the third night of this march, Mr. Diggs and another officer escaped by climbing over a barbed-wire enclosure. They hid out with a Polish family for several weeks, then met advancing Soviet forces and made their way to Odessa, where they boarded a British freighter. They were repatriated with U.S. forces in Naples. Mr. Diggs's military decorations included a Silver Star, Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Mr. Diggs, a longtime resident of Arlington, was born in Linthicum Heights. He moved to Washington to attend American University, where he received a bachelor's degree in economics. He obtained a master's degree in economics from George Washington University.

For three years before joining the Army early in World War II, Mr. Diggs was a writer with The Washington Post.

He was author of three books, including "Oflog 64-A Unique Prisoner of War Camp," which was about his wartime internment.

In retirement, Mr. Diggs traveled extensively. He wrote occasionally about his travels for Maturity News Service, which is syndicated by the New York Times.

His first wife, Tracy Briscoe Diggs, whom he married in 1942, died in 1987.

His second wife, Elizabeth Anderson Diggs, died in 2001. Survivors include two daughters from his first marriage, Margaret Diggs of Williamstown, Mass., and Debby Churchman of Arlington; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Mr. Diggs will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on the Ides of March, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome. For more details, contact Debby Churchman at churchman@nwf.org

This is regarding the obituary of Bill's good friend ,John Sanford, on the next page.

Dear Bob Thompson, Dick Kellahan, Jock Sutherland, James McKay, and Wesleyan Alumni Assn.

12/27/03

I learned of Sandy's death from his wife ,Joan ,who called several days before Christmas. We had exchanged Emails a couple of times around Thanksgiving because that was the time of our capture.

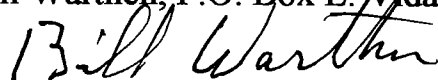
He and his first wife were to have a large wedding in Philadelphia a week after OCS Graduation, She came to Columbus for a visit two weeks before he was to graduate, and they married in Albany, Ga, and told their Families some time after they were married in Philadelphia.

His first wife died in 1981 or 82. (This, you will not believe) Joan came to California from Liverpool in the 70's. Married and took a job with Sandy's firm. She and her husband moved to Australia for several years, and Christmas cards eventually were returned with notation that the couple had moved, and forwarding address unknown. There had been a divorce, and Joan had moved to Hawaii for a short time, then returned to Liverpool to care for her Mother.

A year or two after Sandy's Wife had died, he went to Europe hoping the change would help him, and went to Buckingham Palace to view the changing of the guard, and Joan was in the crowd with her Mother, and she recognized him and sought him out of the crowd. Eventually they married and had a very happy second marriage for each of them. I had located Sandy through the Wesleyan Alumni Organization, and visited them when in La Canada(suburb of Pasedena), when in California for the San Diego Oflag 64 Reunion, and later entertained them when they were in Atlanta for an Art Show where she was exhibiting.

Sandy was my partner on the march and shared his Red Cross Parcel with me after mine was stolen. As you, who were "Kregies" know, this was a real sacrifice on the part of Sandy. Consequently I shared everything I scrounged with him on the remainder of our March.

Yours truly, Bill Warthen, P.O. Box L, Vidalia, Ga. 30474



OBITUARIES

John Palmer Sandford

John Palmer Sandford, 84,
passed away peacefully on



RENZ, Victor W. (Age 83) - Loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away February 11, 2004. Survived by his wife of 55 years, Helen A. Renz; daughter, Vicki A. Hoskins; sons and daughters-in-law, Phillip V. and Shelly Renz, William R. and Cindy Renz, plus eight grandchildren; sister, Mary P. Morris; brother and sister-in-law, Al and Eva Renz; sister-in-law, Lucille Renz, all of Spokane, along with numerous nieces and nephews. Victor graduated from Central Valley High School in 1938. Victor was a pioneer entrepreneur in the Spokane Valley since 1949. Vic was past president of the Spokane Valley Lions Club and the Washington State Arabian Horse Association, along with being involved with the Spokane Valley Elks. Vic served our country as a 1st Lieutenant with the United States Army Infantry during WW II and is honored as a P.O.W for his confinement in OFLAG 64. Vic was confined along with 1500 US military officers including General Patton's son-in-law and later liberated by General Patton. Victor enjoyed antique cars, bowling and was an avid golfer with Liberty Lake's Over the Hill Gang. Victor and his wife, Helen, wintered in Green Valley, AZ to extend their golf season. Victor was a founding member of Redeemer Lutheran Church and for the past 30+ years, a member of the Hope Lutheran Church. Vic would appreciate donations to Hope Lutheran's Building Fund, in lieu of flowers. Vic is dearly loved and will be missed by all. Church Services will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3606 S. Schafer Rd. at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2004, Pastor Craig Wulf officiating. Interment at Pines Commentary. **THORNHILL VALLEY FUNERAL HOME, 1400 S. PINES RD., SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99206**

Dec. 4, 2003 after a short illness, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on June 16, 1919, the only son of Joseph Edward and Lillian Palmer Sandford in Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from Wesleyan University in 1941.

He served his country in World War II as a lieutenant in the United States Army, landing at Omaha Beach in 1944 after the first beachhead had been secured. Later, he was captured under fire and as a prisoner of war was forced to make the long march from OFLAF 64 in Poland to Germany.

John was a resident of La Cañada since 1955, and a former member of the La Cañada Country Club, where he enjoyed many a round of golf. He was an executive of the Curtis Publishing Co. for many years, and held the position of senior advertising and marketing manager for the *Ladies Home Journal*.

He was brave, uncompromisingly ethical, steadfast, kind to everyone and ever supportive. He was his family's role model, mentor and hero, and touched many lives. A true gentleman, he will be sorely missed.

John was predeceased by his first wife of 43 years, Frances "Fruff" Soliday Sandford, the mother of his two children. He remarried to Joan Lawson Sandford, his surviving and loving wife of 17 years. He commented frequently how lucky he had been to strike gold twice! He and Joan, an accomplished artist, formed the Sandford Publishing Company 11 years ago to market her art.



John P. Sandford

He threw himself into this endeavor wholeheartedly. They made quite a team and he was so energized it was hard to keep up with him.

John is also survived by his daughter, Carol S. Litherland of San Jose; son, Michael D. Sandford of Thousand Oaks; two granddaughters, Marci Thurston of San Jose and Michelle Weidner of Vista; and one great-granddaughter, 9-year-old Brianna Sandford of Vista. Her wise words were, "You only have until Monday to be sad. J.P. wouldn't have wanted us to be sad."

Family and friends will gather sometime this summer in Mammoth to scatter John's ashes overlooking Barney Lake in a celebration of his life.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to the American Heart Association.



Major Joseph Russell Green

Major Joseph Russell Green, U. S. Army Ret., 81, of Maumelle, Ark., went to be with the Lord on November 13, 2003.

He was born December 14, 1921 in Holcomb, Mo. A veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, he was a POW in Germany for twenty-seven months. After his retirement from the military, he earned an MBA degree from Drury College and went on to become Director of Administrative Services for the Assemblies of God Headquarters in Springfield, Mo. Also in Springfield, he was a volunteer with the American Red Cross and was a past president of the Springfield Club, Rotary International. In Little Rock, Ark., he accumulated over 3,500 hours as a volunteer at Baptist Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Mary F. Jones Green of Maumelle, Ark.; son, Ron and his wife, Elaine of Roland, Ark.; daughter, Patricia and her husband, Roy Mindt of Bismarck, N.D.; stepdaughter, Patricia and Dr. Ira R. Weiner of Danville, Calif.; stepsons, Donald Jones and wife Wanda of Fort Smith, Ark., and Michael and his wife Kimberly Jones of Roland; grandchildren, Amy Green, Jeff Mindt and Cora Lursen; four great-grandchildren; a sister, Mary Irene Erickson of Baldwin, Wisc.; and a host of friends and relatives.

Funeral services will be Monday, November 17, 2003, at 10 a.m. in the Roller-Chenal Funeral Home Chapel, Little Rock, Ark., with Reverend Tony Jones officiating. Interment will be in New Rosemont Cemetery in Benton, Ark. The family will receive friends today from 4 until 6 p.m. at the funeral home (501-224-8300).

Memorials may be made to Arkansas Hospice Little Rock, c/o St. Vincent-Doctors, 6101 St. Vincent Circle, Little Rock, AR 72205.