

# Post Oflag 64 Item

## 2007 - Winter

### Editor

Elodie Caldwell  
2731 Terry Avenue  
Longview WA 98632-4437  
[elodie@oflag64.org](mailto:elodie@oflag64.org)

### Assisting Editor

Bob Thompson  
7448 East 68<sup>th</sup> Place  
Tulsa OK 74133-7713  
[THO7448@aol.com](mailto:THO7448@aol.com)

### Contributing Editor

Bill Warthen  
1204 Loop Road  
Vidalia GA 30474-8509  
[billwarthen@gmail.com](mailto:billwarthen@gmail.com)

### Guest Writer

Pat (DiFrancesco) Bender  
7039 McCallum Street  
Philadelphia PA 19119-3039  
[awol06@comcast.net](mailto:awol06@comcast.net)

### Guest Writer

Lucy Lussenden  
16413 Alpine Drive  
Livonia MI 48154-2547  
[donlucy@wwnet.com](mailto:donlucy@wwnet.com)

### Treasurer

Joe Seringer  
1930 Edwards  
Wooster OH 44691-1927  
[joeseringer@aol.com](mailto:joeseringer@aol.com)

### 2007 Tulsa Reunion A HUGE Success

MANY THANKS goes to Jay, Shonda, Maggie and Bob Wagner, and a host of other volunteers for making this year's reunion a HUGE success. Arrangements for the hotel, tours, meals, entertainment, etc. were all first class and we greatly appreciated their tireless efforts in putting things together. (Please see Lucy Lussenden's comprehensive report included later in this ITEM.)



For a photo CD/DVD of the Tulsa Reunion, contact Jerry Palmer at: [jpalmerimages@wildblue.net](mailto:jpalmerimages@wildblue.net) or at 2005 North Lynn Lane, Catoosa OK 74015. Copies are \$30 each and contain over 1500 images.

<b>Future Reunion Possibilities</b>	<b>Hosted By</b>	<b>Year</b>
Washington D.C.	Pat Bender & AFR	TBA
Dallas TX	Carole Lester	TBA
Grand Rapids MI	Judy Knight	TBA
Ft. Collins CO	Julie Gionfriddo	TBA

Best Regards, *Elodie Caldwell* (Daughter of Reid Ellsworth)

# A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

**ITEM MAILINGS** - Due to the expense of mailing the ITEM by US Mail, we have found it necessary to pare down the list. It was decided at the reunion that if you currently receive email updates and queries, you will now receive an email announcement stating when the ITEM is available on line. If you do not have email or if you are a Kriegy, you will continue to receive the ITEM by US Mail as in the past. (*Kriegies: If you have email and would like to print your own copy from your computer, let us know and we'll take you off the US Mail list.*) We hope this will work well for all. Thanks for your understanding. ~ **Elodie Caldwell**

## Tulsa Reunion Report

By Lucy Lussenden

A number of Kriegies were not able to attend this year either due to health concerns or conflicts in scheduling but they were with us in spirit.

About 20 Kriegies attended the Reunion along with their wives and members of their families. Many more adult children of the Kriegies came this year, and that was great to see. Altogether we had about 100 folks in attendance. Herm and Lucy Littman brought five of their children, the Warthen's daughters came, as did "Doc" DiFrancesco's three daughters and some grandchildren. Brad Bradford's daughter came and so did Julie Gionfriddo, daughter of our dear deceased Jack Rathbone. Ed Graf attended for the first time since he lost his wife, Peg, with his daughter and her husband. Curtis Jones and his wife brought their daughter. The family of Reid Ellsworth, whom we lost this year, made a great showing with a number of family members. Bob and Gladys Thompson's son and three daughters came again, as well as at least one granddaughter. I know that I have forgotten some folks, but I hope that those families will forgive my bad memory. I would never purposely leave out any of our Oflag family.

Needless to say, we all had an absolutely wonderful time! As Joe Barrett said to a reporter from the local CBS affiliate who came to film our party, it seems like every year the Reunion gets better and better.

This year's Reunion was hosted by Maggie Wagner and her family. Maggie is the daughter of Ralph Ball, who passed on in 2001. Maggie's son, Jay, and his wife Shonda worked very hard and put together an outstanding program. They even managed to provide beautiful blue skies and moderate temperatures. What more could you ask for?

Thursday evening, after almost everyone had arrived, we were taken to the home of Maggie and her husband, Robert Wagner. They graciously hosted our dinner and entertainment that evening in their especially beautiful home. We enjoyed a delicious buffet meal, eating at tables out on their patio and around their gorgeous backyard and pool. After our meal, we were entertained by an ensemble of six women, the Doo Wop-a-doos, who sang several songs from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. They were a lot of fun and had wonderful voices. You would have recognized all of the songs and enjoyed them, too.

Our hospitality room was open almost non-stop during the four days. We were provided with a variety of soda pop, coffee, snacks, etc. As usual, there were many things of interest to read. Of course, this was a great way to share photos, socialize and "tell lies," as some of the Kriegies have said at past Reunions.

On Friday morning, we enjoyed a super breakfast in the Meeting Room. Following breakfast, the business meeting was held. Bob Thompson conducted most of the meeting, along with Elodie Caldwell, Reid Ellsworth's daughter. Bob is stepping down from his duties and hoping that someone from the next generation will volunteer to take over his role. Elodie has been publishing THE ITEM and doing a fantastic job. Bob has been getting the paper printed and mailed by a local printer, but will soon lose his source. Bill Warthen's daughter, Kathy, from Florida, has volunteered to handle the printing and distributing of THE ITEM. She hopes to be able to send it out via e-mail to as many of our members as possible. This will reduce postage costs and the amount of time necessary for her office staff to send out THE ITEM.

Joe Seringer was attending a family affair and thus unable to come this year. He is looking for someone to volunteer to take over keeping the books for the Oflag 64 Kriegies. His health is still good, but he thinks it would be prudent to find a replacement as soon as possible. Again, he is hoping for someone from the next generation to take over.

Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya, Marcia Kanners, Ed Graf and his granddaughter and grandson-in-law, and Warren Jones, son of Charles L. Jones, joined a tour in September entitled "Americans in Enemy Hands." This tour was conducted by a company called Military Historical Tours. The group visited several former POW camps, holding and interrogation centers, and at least one concentration camp. They said that the tour was really interesting and fun. The tour company may run the same itinerary again next year. They went to Schubin-Oflag 64, Moosburg-Stalag VII A, Zagan-Stalag Luft III (home of the famous "Great Escape" movie), Colditz Castle-site of Stalag IV C, Barth, retraced the Hammelburg Raid route, and much more.

Everyone took lots of photos, and Lynn put together a really nice "moving slide show" of the photos. She presented the show and narrative as part of the meeting. During Lynn's presentation, there was a lot of discussion about the buildings at Oflag 64 and identifying them. One of the Kriegies mentioned "The Bird" and wondered if it had ever actually existed, since no one he knew had ever seen it. Don Graul said that he had definitely seen the radio ("The Bird"), and could confirm that it was real. Don had not only seen but handled and even buried "The Bird" at one point. In the camp, a few men would listen to the BBC broadcasts on "The Bird", brief other officers who would then return to their respective groups and verbally pass on the news. "The Bird" was kept hidden at all times, and even carried on the long march. While the tour group was in Schubin, a Polish woman arrived whose family had lived in or near the camp because her father worked in the camp during the War. She had many pleasant memories of those times when the Americans were there, and was thrilled to be able to meet some of the former Kriegies after all this time. There was much discussion about the events surrounding the Hammelburg Raid. Some of the Kriegies told their stories of how they had participated by trying to join Abe Baum's group and escape. Some did manage to escape and just a few made it back to American lines. Others were recaptured and returned to camp. We certainly enjoyed a very lively meeting this year.

After lunch, we departed for the Will Rogers Museum. This was a lovely museum on a spectacular setting overlooking the surrounding valley. A professional impersonator, Doug Watson, gave us a very real and well-done performance of Will Rogers. His gestures and style were so real. Following this performance, we moved to the patio overlooking the valley where we enjoyed a delicious buffet of baked beans, chicken breast, brisket, kielbasa, salads and followed up with peach, berry, or apple cobbler. Good stuff!!!

Saturday we enjoyed a breakfast from McDonald's in the Hospitality Room, courtesy of Maggie's husband, Robert Wagner. Afterwards, we took a tour of Tulsa and learned about the

city's rich history, culture and architecture. Lunch was on our own in either an Olive Garden or P.F. Chang restaurant.

There was a very good article on the front page of the Saturday TULSA WORLD newspaper concerning our Kriegies reuniting in Tulsa. Also included was a photo of Bob Thompson, who lives in Tulsa. The article was seen by Eva K. Unterman, a Tulsa resident, who is a Holocaust survivor. After reading the morning paper, she came directly to our hotel and our Hospitality Room. She wanted to meet us and learn as much as she could about the Oflag 64 group. She was seven years old when the Germans invaded Poland, her birthplace. She said that she and her mother were in Auschwitz and other camps, and eventually in Theresienstadt concentration camp, the so-called "typical camp" shown to the International Red Cross which was supposedly an example of how "well" the prisoners were being treated. It is unbelievable and certainly a miracle that they both survived all the camps they were in. Eva spoke to our group at the Memorial Breakfast on Sunday so she could give her thanks to all of the Americans, and especially our Kriegies, for all that they did to end the Nazi nightmare and give her a new life.

The local CBS television affiliate interviewed a few of our Kriegies, and taped a portion of those interviews and our banquet to be later broadcast on the nightly news. Our Saturday evening banquet and entertainment were held in the Meeting Room. U.S. Senator Tom Coburn was the guest speaker, followed by Major Michael Gonzales from the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City. Afterwards, the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers, a small group of local Native Americans danced and performed for us. Each person was dressed in his/her special and beautiful native regalia. Another evening of wonderful entertainment!!!

On Sunday morning, breakfast was served in the Meeting Room, following by our Memorial Service. An FBI chaplain and pastor of Belview Baptist in Tulsa, Tom Branch, gave a nice homily and read the names of the Kriegies who had passed on since our last Reunion. He and Don Cagle, also of Belview Baptist, led us in prayer and songs. Clarence Meltesen's daughter, Lynne, sent copies of his recently republished book "Roads to Liberation," as a gift to us, which were placed at each of our table settings.

A few of the children of Kriegies have volunteered to continue hosting our Reunions. Future Reunions will be hosted, if possible, by "Doc" DiFrancesco's daughter, Pat Bender (along with the Armed Forces Reunion people), in Washington, D.C.; Herm Littman's daughter, Carole Lester, in Dallas TX; Judy Knight, Ed Graf's daughter, in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Julie Gionfriddo, Jack Rathbone's daughter, in Ft. Collins, Colorado. There was a lot of excitement and offers of help, knowing that these Reunions will continue. As you know, there is so much love and camaraderie in this group. After hugging and saying our good-bys for this year, everyone departed for home.

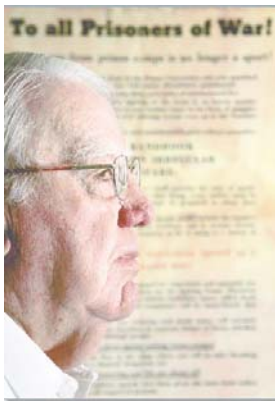
Jerry Palmer, an excellent local professional photographer hired by the Wagners, was present all weekend, capturing memories for us. A CD/DVD with approximately 1500 photos is available to buy for \$30. There probably will be more information about this in the ITEM.

Once again, I want to emphasize what a wonderful Reunion we had, thanks to the Wagner family's hard work and dedication to detail. This certainly was one of our most memorable Reunions. There is so much more to report that hasn't been included here, but hopefully you will get a good picture of the events as they occurred. We all appreciate and thank the Wagner family for the great job they did!

# Ex-POWs of World War II are reuniting

(Reprinted with permission from Tulsa World/Rhett Morgan)

[KELLY KERR / TULSA WORLD](#)



**Bob Thompson is among 35 former prisoners of Oflag 64, a POW camp in Poland during World War II, who are attending a reunion in Tulsa this weekend.**

[By RHETT MORGAN World Staff Writer](#)  
10/13/2007

Despite being a former prisoner of war, Tulsan Bob Thompson likes to remind people that others in World War II had it worse.

Including Thompson.

"One guy made a remark about how we lived in the prison," said the former first lieutenant of the 132nd Field Artillery, 36th Division. "He said, 'Listen, I didn't sleep in a building overnight the whole time I was overseas until I got thrown in prison. You either slept in the snow or in a hole or a tent.'

"I didn't, either."

Thompson, 85, will share his memories at the annual POW reunion for those held captive at Oflag 64, a former POW camp in Poland. More than 35 ex-POWs and their families are scheduled to attend the event, which is being held in Tulsa for the first time and continues through Sunday.

The reunion is at the Marriott Southern Hills hotel, with a banquet planned for Saturday and a memorial service scheduled for Sunday.

Oflag 64, located in Szubin, Poland, was the German forces' only prison camp for American ground force officers. Between June 1943 and January 1945, the population at Oflag grew to more than 1,500, including many who were captured during the D-Day invasion of Normandy. One of the POWs was Lt. Col. John Waters, son-in-law of Gen. George S. Patton.

The POW gatherings have been a staple of Thompson's for years.

"Nobody owes anybody anything," he said during an interview at his south Tulsa home. "Nobody's trying to prove anything. Nobody's trying to impress anybody. It's just good friends."

A converted reform school, Oflag 64 sat on about 10 acres and featured single-story barracks. Thompson arrived there Dec. 1, 1944, after being captured near the Moselle River in France, he said.

On Jan. 21, 1945, the POWs were forced to walk 355 miles to Parchim, Germany, surviving 20-below-zero temperatures. Getting a heads-up about the departure, Thompson scrambled around camp to find shoes about three sizes too big and locate about four pairs of socks, he said.

"My feet were fairly warm," Thompson said.

Bracing for the cold, he bundled up with two pairs of wool pants, a shirt, sweater, jacket and large coat. The soldiers wrapped towels or undershirts around their heads, he said.

"About the only things showing were your eyeballs," Thompson said.

He remembers sleeping in barn lofts, digging deep into the hay for warmth. While walking through the narrow streets of

villages, the soldiers were received by Polish women, who stood at their doors and gave them apples, bread and cold oatmeal, Thompson said.

In Parchim, the captives were shoehorned into box cars and transported to Hammelburg, Germany, where they arrived March 1, 1945.

"Those train trips were miserable," he said. "They would put so many people in there that you would have to stand up all the time."

Less than a month later, Patton arranged for a raid to free the prisoners, but the rescue failed. The Germans recaptured Thompson

and others, who ultimately were sent to POW camps in Nuremburg and Moosburg before being liberated by Patton's 3rd Army in late April of that year.

Thompson still marvels at the unflagging commitment the servicemen showed.

"I never saw a one of those guys refuse to do his duty, regardless of how dangerous it was going to be," he said. "And they did it willingly and cheerfully. They would volunteer to do it. I was amazed by it then, and I'm still amazed by it."

[www.tulsaworld.com/webloc](http://www.tulsaworld.com/webloc)

## WWII Prisoners Of War Reunite

(Reprinted with permission from KOTV.COM)

KOTV - 10/14/2007 9:30 PM - Updated 10/14/2007 11:21 PM

<http://kotv.com/news/local/story/?id=137906>

Veterans of war who survived unspeakable horrors at the hands of the Nazis reunite in Tulsa. They gathered at the Southern Hills Marriot to share stories and remember birthdays and Christmases spent in chains and solitary confinement. The News On 6's Joshua Brakhage reports the soldiers were tortured to give up information, but learned that leaning on each other was necessary to survive.

"We were all locked up by the Germans over in Poland, said World War II veteran Bob Thompson.

Sixty-three years ago, these men were united in a Nazi prison camp. Now, Six decades later, these World War II warriors meet up in Tulsa. They say the years have not dulled their memories.

"These things, I guess, you'll never forget as long as you live," said former prisoner of war Joe Barrett.

"We were always short of food, hungry, cold, and of course, under those conditions we found ourselves rather miserable," added Colonel Jim Kanaya.

The veterans say camaraderie, and their faith in the Allies winning the war got them through almost two years of torment.

It's a bond they've worked to preserve through annual reunions.

"Every time we come to one of these, it seems as if one seems to be better than the other," said former prisoner of war Joe Barrett.

And, for these men each reunion becomes more precious, because while they survived the hands of torturers, they can't escape the hands of time.

"Of course, each year we lose a few," said Colonel Jim Kanaya.

"We recognize the men who have died in the past year. I think we've got about 10 or 12 this year," added former prisoner of war Bob Thompson.

The oldest veteran to make this year's trip to Tulsa is 95 years old.

"And because of age and infirmities and physical conditions, it's just becoming more difficult for some of us to travel," said World War II veteran Joe Barrett.

"Eventually, we're gonna hafta quit. We're about to run out of men now. In the beginning, I think they'd have 75 or 80 men. We're down to about 15 now," said former prisoner of war Bob Thompson.

Younger generations will pass on the stories and the legacy of a mission these men were willing to die for.

The Polish prison camp was liberated by a secret task force led by American General Patton.



Rosenthals, Kanayas



Bill Warthen



Joe Barrett



K. Ezell, B. Thompson,  
C. Heisler



"Doc" DiFrancesco

**Please check the website below for other news coverage of the Tulsa Reunion.**

<http://kotv.com/e-clips/news/?date=10/14/2007>

# Revisiting Oflag 64: a German POW Camp

Jimmie Kanaya, Col. USA, Ret

In October, 1944, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Medics were asked to assist the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion evacuate their wounded from Biffontaine, which was on the other side of a mountain from Bruyeres, France. We were captured on our return trip with our casualties. Soon we were being marched and processed as Deutschland Kriegesgefangenen, or German prisoners of war. I went from the Vosges Mountains; France to Stuttgart, spent Thanksgiving night in Berlin, Germany, and on to a POW camp for US Army Officers, called Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland.

When the Russian Winter Offensive in January 1945 caused the camp to be evacuated, fourteen hundred men marched, rode in trucks, and were in box cars moving west toward camps in Hammelburg, and finally to Moosburg, Germany. Only about 400 men made it to Hammelburg. Extreme cold, lack of food, and exhaustion took its toll. I arrived at Hammelburg Oflag VIII B after hiking cross-country over four hundred miles. An unsuccessful escape attempt was made at Hammelburg, and I was eventually liberated in Nürnberg on April 26, 1945.

I have always wanted to revisit the POW camp in Poland, and retrace the route of the cross-country hike to western Germany. I found there was an opportunity to return to Oflag 64, Berlin, Hammelburg, Nürnberg and other POW camps with a group sponsored by Military Historical Tours, Inc. and with a tour called, "American in Enemy Hands" in September, 2007.

The most interesting part of the tour was retracing my long march out of Poland that hugged the Baltic Sea Coast and crossed into East Germany in advance of the Russian Winter Offensive. Those days of cold, constant hunger and lack of rest could not compare with the large, warm comfortable tour bus with buffet lunches and dinners at every stop. The original trip lasted more than three months. The bus took eight days with lodging included.

Oflag VIII B at Hammelburg, where General Patton attempted to rescue POWs including his son-in-law, was still a viable German Military Training Post. I was amazed at the historical preservation effort made by the German government at some of the POW camps with monuments, museums and well kept park-like settings to remind the world of what took place during the Great War. The Camp in Nürnberg, Oflag XIII, where I made my final escape was gone as the city's industrial growth completely covered the area. My POW experiences, I'm sure, were not too unlike the WWII experience of Japanese Americans, including my family. They were evacuated from the west coast, into barbed wire enclosures and lost their freedom, too.

One of my life's ambitions was fulfilled. It brought back memories of hardship and privation experienced by many in similar situations. It rekindled my faith in our country, the military, and that our system of government will prevail.



Jimmie Kanaya pointing to the barracks window of Hammelburg, Oflag VIII B.

Oflag 64 Memorial at Schubin Poland.







# MAIL CALL



**JAMES M. BATES** from **Brentwood TN** sent a donation to the postage fund and expressed thanks for the newsletter. *Thanks, Jim, for your thoughtful donation. We're pleased that you are enjoying the ITEM and hope to hear from you again soon.*



**BARBARA BICKERS** of **Prospect Heights IL** emailed not long ago: "My father [James Bickers] asked me to send his regrets that he and Mother [Emmy Lou] are not able to attend the Oflag 64 reunion this year. His heart is always with you, however, and he draws great enjoyment reading THE ITEM newsletter. We are eager for all the reunion news coverage!" *Thanks, Barbara, for writing. We dearly miss our Kriegies when they are unable to attend reunions, but we*

*also understand as the years go by that it becomes more and more difficult to do so. Best Wishes to you all and please keep in touch.*

**DAVID BOYLAN** from **Tullahoma TN** is new to our Oflag 64 family. He is the nephew of James Kenneth Davis who was at Hammelburg. In searching for information on his uncle, he was able to make contact with Lloyd LeClair, a Kriegy from Milwaukie, Oregon. The two have shared several emails, a couple of which are included in the Information Station section of this ITEM. In a recent email, David wrote: I have attached my Family Tree Maker file for my Uncle James Kenneth Davis and a picture of him to use as you require in your web page history project. I am also mailing you a copy of each with a small donation to thank you for your help." *Thanks, Dave, for your thoughtful donation and for the picture and history of your uncle. And best wishes on your search for further information.*

**O. L. "BRAD" BRADFORD** from **Grove City OH** not long ago wrote to say that after 56 years at his old address, he has moved. He enjoys hearing news of our group and asked that a notice of his new address be included in this ITEM. His new address is: O. L. Bradford, 5826 Ravine Creek Drive, Grove City OH 43123. At the Tulsa Reunion he also expressed appreciation and thanks to all who sent sympathies and condolences at the sudden passing of his son. *Thanks, Brad, for writing and updating us on your move. The mailing list has been changed to include your new address. Thanks also for your grateful thoughts. We know how difficult it is to lose a loved one. We hope you'll write again.*

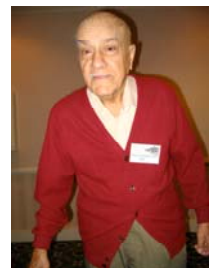
**HELEN CHAPPELL** from **Kaufman TX** in a recent email wrote: "It is with regret that I write to tell you of my unfortunate fall in August. I lost my balance and fell backwards on our dining room floor. It has caused severe pain, and I am doing all the necessary procedures to get some relief. I pray no surgery will be necessary, but the MRI will indicate what we need to do. I am doubly concerned due to Roy's needs for me. We realize your POW Reunion is close at hand. OH, HOW WE HAD HOPED TO ATTEND THIS REUNION!!!!!! In every way every hour of your Reunion, we will be thinking of you and WISHING WE WERE THERE!! WE SEND OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS." *Helen, we were saddened to hear that you and Tex wouldn't be able to make it to the Tulsa Reunion. Your presence was greatly missed. We certainly pray for your speedy recovery and hope that you and Tex will be able to join us again in the future. Please keep in touch.*

**ROLLAND “Bill” CORBIN and his wife BETTE** sent a picture of themselves taken in 2006 along with a packet containing Bill’s Army history. Bette also sent a poem she wrote about POWs which we would like to include in a future ITEM. Bill recently received the Freedom Team Salute Certificate of Appreciation, a copy of which is included in the Information Station section of this ITEM. The Corbins were at our Tulsa Reunion. They wrote: “It was a great reunion.” *Thanks, Bill and Bette, for your nice note and congratulations, Bill, on your award. We’re happy you enjoyed the reunion and hope to see you again next year.*



**JOHN L. CREECH from Columbus NC** recently emailed: “As much as I wish, I am unable to attend the Oflag 64 meeting. I am still able, I just cannot handle a plane ride but I will be thinking about all of you, especially Roy Chappell. Keep up the good work, it so important to remain Oflag 64 until the last man.” Separately he sent a donation to the postage fund. *We were sorry to hear, John, that you wouldn’t be able to attend the Tulsa Reunion. You were certainly in our thoughts, and your presence was definitely missed. Thanks for your thoughtful contribution to the postage fund. We greatly appreciate your support and hope to hear from you again soon.*

**VINCENT “DOC” DI FRANCESCO from Silver Spring MD** sent a donation to the postage fund not long ago. Doc also sent a copy of a letter he received from the French Ambassador to the United States in which he was named “Knight of the Legion of Honor” in acknowledgement of services rendered to France by persons of great merit. A copy of that letter has been included in the Information Station section of this ITEM. *Congratulations, Doc, on such a fine distinction and thanks for sharing your letter. We commend you for your service. We also thank you for your thoughtful donation. It is greatly appreciated.*



**ALAN DUNBAR from Las Vegas NV** wrote a little while ago to say he wouldn’t be able to be at the Tulsa Reunion due to his son-in-law’s stroke. Regarding future reunions he said: “Any vote for next year is a yes for me. I will be 90 years old, but still alive and kicking.” *Alan, you were certainly missed in Tulsa. We hope your son-in-law’s health improves soon and that you’ll be able to join us at next year’s reunion. Please let us hear from you again.*

**LESTER EDSALL from Sidney OH** has written with the updated address of one of our Kriegies, Mervin G. Danielson whom we had lost track of for a short while. He also updated us on the correct spelling of Mervin’s name. We’re happy to have found Mervin and will be adding him back on the mailing list. *Thanks, Les, for this new information. We greatly appreciate your help.*

**Laurie Finnegan daughter of Vernor “Vern” Siebert** wrote to inform us of the passing of her father on October 11, 2007. *Thanks, Laurie, for letting us know of your father’s passing. We mourn the loss of another great man. His name will be added to our website TAPS list. Our best goes to you and your family at this sad time.*

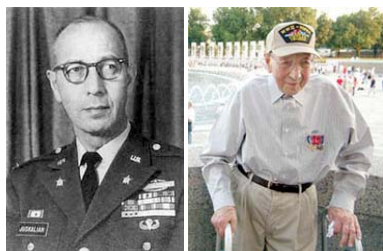
**HERB L. GARRIS from Pinehurst NC** sent a nice note to Bob Thompson and Elodie Caldwell along with a check for the postage fund. He also sent compliments on the ITEM, best wishes for a successful reunion (with love to all), and updates on his wife, Louise, who is improving each day. She had struggled with some rehab. but is now doing the same exercises at home.

*Thanks, Herb, for your compliments and for your thoughtful and generous donation. Thanks also for your updates. We were pleased to hear that you escaped Hurricane Helene and that Louise is improving. We missed you at the reunion this year but would love to see you at future reunions.*

**EDWARD A. GRAF from Grand Rapids MI** recently sent a generous donation to the postage fund. He, along with others of our Oflag 64 Family, in September, toured Germany and Poland with the “Americans in Enemy Hands” tour. *Ed, we are greatly appreciative of your thoughtful and generous donation. Thank you so much. We also hope you enjoyed your tour experiences in September and your visit to Oflag 64. We look forward to a report. Please keep in touch.*

**JUDY HUSSET from Santa Rosa CA** wrote to let us know that her father, James H. Wheeler, died in 2001. She also sent a donation to the postage fund. *Judy, we were very sorry to hear that your father passed away. Even though time has also passed, we express our condolences to you and your family. We’d also like to thank you for your very generous and thoughtful donation. Your support is greatly appreciated. Your father’s name has been added to the TAPS list on our website. We hope you’ll keep in touch.*

**WARREN L. JONES** visited our website recently and noticed that his father’s name was not on the TAPS list. Charles L. Jones, Warren’s father, served as company clerk at Oflag 64 and was a 1st Lt. at the time. Upon discharge he was promoted to Captain. His date of passing was September 10, 1999, at age 86. -- Warren recently returned from the “Americans in Enemy Hands” tour and enjoyed touring with and meeting ex-POWs Ed Graf and Jimmie Kanaya, Jimmie’s wife Lynn, and Marcia Kanners, widow of Victor Kanners, all of our Oflag 64 Family. *Thanks, Warren, for the updates on your father. We were sorry to hear of his death, but we’ve added him to our website TAPS list. Thanks also for sharing your tour journal. We hope to have it online soon. Please let us hear from you again.*



**GEORGE JUSKALIAN from Centreville VA** called a while back to let us know that the puzzle has been solved and that Robert M. Keith who was included in the TAPS section of our last ITEM is indeed the same Robert M. Keith who was once a resident of Oflag 64. He was able to contact the funeral home for confirmation. *While it saddens us to hear of Bob’s death, we are pleased that the puzzle has been solved. Thanks so much, George, for tracking this information down. We were also very sorry you weren’t able to make it to the Tulsa Reunion. It’s always a pleasure to hear from you. We hope you’ll keep in touch.*

**JIMMIE AND LYNN KANAYA from Gig Harbor WA** recently returned from their trip to Germany and Oflag 64 with the “Americans in Enemy Hands” tour group, which also included other members of our Oflag 64 organization. Jimmie and Lynn shared a very interesting and informative power-point presentation at the reunion in Tulsa. Jimmie’s written report is included in the “Information Station” section. *Thanks, Kanayas, for sharing your trip experiences and memories. We enjoyed your reports.*



**LLOYD LECLAIR from Milwaukie OR** found our website recently and has shared by email some of his POW and WWII experiences, along with a picture of him taken in 1942 (see the

“Information Station” section). He and the nephew of James Kenneth Davis, David Boylan, have made a connection and are sharing emails as well (see the “Information Station section”). He also sent a donation to the postage fund. *Thanks, Lloyd, for sharing your experiences and for sending the photo. Thanks also for your generous and thoughtful contribution to the postage fund. We love learning of our Kriegies’ POW experiences and other WWII stories. Please write again. We hope to see you at future reunions.*

**LUCY LUSSENDEN from Livonia MI** just prior to the Tulsa Reunion wrote with news of her daughter, Debra, who had been in the hospital being treated for leukemia. At one point in early September, Debra developed pneumonia and continued to have high fevers. Lucy reported at the Tulsa Reunion that Debra has since recovered from pneumonia and will soon begin receiving chemo again. Lucy also sent a donation to the postage fund. *Thanks, Lucy, for your thoughtful and generous postage fund contribution. We appreciate it greatly. We will keep you, Debra, and the family in our thoughts and prayers. We hope all goes well with chemo treatments. Please keep us updated from time to time.*

**PAUL D. MARABLE, JR. from Waco TX** wrote recently to say: “Betty and I had planned to attend our Tulsa reunion, but as can happen to anyone our plans must change. I notice with dismay that Art Meier is not listed in the ‘attendee status’ you included with the current ITEM. I hope his health is not the problem. Art was my battery commander when we went ashore on Utah Beach. I think very highly of him.” *Thanks, Paul, for writing and for your kind words about the ITEM (see the “ITEM Comments” section). We were sorry to hear that you weren’t able to make it to the Tulsa Reunion. We hope you’ll be able to attend in the future. We also hope you hear from Art soon and can get a current address for him. Please keep us posted.*

**LARRY MCBRAYER from Slidell LA** wrote to Joe Seringer a while back telling him that he wouldn’t be able to attend the reunion in Tulsa. Larry is a volunteer at The National D-Day Museum in NOLA and has been a long-time supporter of our Oflag 64 group. He also attended the reunion in New Orleans last year. *We missed you this year, Larry, but hope to see you again in the future. Thanks for your continued support of the Oflag 64 organization.*

**JAMES (JACK) MONAGHAN from Birmingham AL** recently sent a donation to the postage fund and a short note informing us of his change of address. He is still in Birmingham. Although his first name is James, his middle name is Jackson but he’s always been called “Jack”. *Thanks, Jack, for writing and sending us your updates. We’ve updated our mailing list. Thanks also for your thoughtful donation. Please write again.*

**BOB MOORHEAD from Wallingford PA** sent a nice note about the ITEM and a contribution to the postage fund. Bob is a “long march survivor”. *Thanks so much, Bob, for your thoughtful and generous donation and for your kind words. We appreciate your support. Please keep in touch.*



**RICHARD B. PARKER from Washington D.C.** recently emailed: “I have found Sidi Bou. He is so identified on page 52 of Clarence Meltesen's "The Men of Oflag 64. His name was John J. Hasson Jr. and he was captured in North Africa on February 13, 1943, which means he spent two years in the bag. He evidently was still alive in 1997, when Meltesen wrote....Dick has also recently learned that Norman S. Angel, a chaplain with the 82 Airborne, was the man referred to as “Jumping Jesus”. Norman passed away a few years ago. *Congratulations, Dick, on solving your mysteries. What a relief that must be to finally have those questions answered! Thanks also for writing. We enjoy hearing from our Oflag 64 Kriegies.*

**STACY PECKHAM from New Orleans LA** and Assistant Curator of The National D-Day Museum recently contacted Bob Thompson regarding the donation of WWII books from Mr. Poggese who lives in Italy. She expressed thanks for the gift and also stated: "I'm glad you are having another reunion. I'm also glad you chose us last year. I speak for all of us when I say we were enriched by the experience and it was great to meet the men from Oflag 64." *Thanks, Stacy, for writing. Members of the Oflag 64 organization were also enriched by their experience in New Orleans and by their visit to The National D-Day Museum. We appreciate your support.*

**ALVIN R. ROBIN from Tampa FL** wrote to say that he wouldn't be able to make it to the Reunion but wanted to send a contribution to the postage fund. He hopes to attend next year's Reunion. *Thanks, Alvin, for your thoughtful and generous donation. We appreciate it greatly. We were sorry to hear that you wouldn't be able to make it to this year's reunion, but hope to see you next year. Thanks for writing.*

**HERVEY H. ROBINSON from Green Cove Springs FL** wrote recently to Joe Seringer complimenting him on and thanking him for the wonderful work he does for Oflag 64. Hervey, "along with Bill Corey, Bill Fabian and Hill Murphy, was the 4<sup>th</sup> one to remain in the tunnel as the camp (Oflag 64) was evacuated, therefore avoiding the long, hard march." He left through Odessa. *Thanks, Hervey, for writing. We appreciated hearing from you and thank you for your support of our organization. We hope to hear from you again soon.*



**JOE SERINGER from Wooster OH** wrote Bob Thompson not long ago that he was "real sorry to miss the reunion and all the old gang" this year. He will continue as Treasurer unless someone wants to take over. He conveyed "hellos" to all and hopes that some type of reunion and the ITEM will continue. As of January 1, 2008, he will be moving back to Cocoa Beach FL not to return to Ohio until May 1 after considerable travel. *Joe, thanks so much for your faithful and dedicated service as Treasurer. We hope you will continue on, but will keep you posted if anyone wants to give it a try. As far as the reunion, it wasn't the same without you this year. You were definitely missed. We wish you well in your travels and hope to see you again next year.*

**MARGIE SLACK from Burke VA** sent a note to Bob Thompson and "all my P.O.W. friends" a while back stating it was with regret that she wouldn't be in attendance at the '07 reunion. She sent her warmest hellos and best wishes to all for continued good health and abundant happiness. She further said: "You are all so dear to me! Thank you for the blessing you have been in my life and that of my family." *Thanks, Margie, for your nice note. We would have loved to see you in Tulsa. Best wishes to you and your family. We hope to hear from you again.*

**DONALD R. WAFUL from Syracuse NY** sent a nice note to Bob Thompson recently along with a contribution to the postage fund. Don wrote: "My emotions overwhelm me when I sit down and write about Oflag 64 and the folks who have meant so much to me over these many years...but at age 91, travel is no longer comfortable...memories will have to sustain me". He expressed his warmest personal wishes to every POW who attended the Tulsa Reunion and also to those who didn't. Don also sent an obituary for Edward E. Rooney who passed away on August 23, 2007. (Please check the TAPS section of this ITEM for the obituary.) *We thank you, Don, for writing and for sending Edward's obituary. Thanks also for your thoughtful and generous donation. You were missed at the Tulsa Reunion, but we hope you are doing well. Please write again.*

**BILL WARTHEN from Vidalia GA** sent the obituary for John R. "Jock" Sutherland who passed away on August 14, 2007. (Please check the TAPS section of this ITEM for the obituary.) Bill also included a short history of his association with "Jock" during the War. His letter follows the TAPS section. *Thanks, Bill, for sending us the news of John's death. We mourn the passing of another great man. Thanks also for your kind words about the ITEM.*

## **INFORMATION STATION**

There is a Public Law, dated February 10, 1996 that initially authorized the Purple Heart for those while held prisoner before 1962. Robert E. Johnson

### PUBLIC LAW 104-106 - FEB. 10, 1996

SEC. 621. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART TO PERSONS WOUNDED WHILE HELD AS PRISONERS OF WAR BEFORE APRIL 25, 1962.

- a) AWARD OF PURPLE HEART—For purposes of the award of the Purple Heart, the Secretary concerned (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) shall treat a former prisoner of war who was wounded before April 25, 1962, while held as a prisoner of war (or while being taken captive) in the same manner as a former prisoner of war who is wounded on or after that date while held as a prisoner of war (or while being taken captive).
- b) STANDARDS FOR AWARD—An award of the Purple Heart under subsection (a) shall be made in accordance with the standards in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act for the award of the Purple Heart to persons wounded on or after April 25, 1962.
- c) ELIGIBLE FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR—A person shall be considered to be a former prisoner of war for purposes of this section if the person is eligible for the prisoner-of-war medal under section 1128 of title 10, United States Code.

It works with AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, and Change 4, dated 3 May 1944. If you were wounded while taken prisoner, and have medical records revealing the wound or receiving disability because of it, you are eligible for the medal.

Here is a bit of news my husband saw in the [Armed Forces Fedweek](#). It may very well be of interest to the group. Michelle Craig (daughter of deceased Kriegy Lt. William F. Higgins)

### 8. VA Seeking Former POWs/Family Members

The Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking former prisoners of war (POWs) or their family members who are not currently receiving VA benefits and services. Officials are urging them to contact VA to find out if they are eligible for health care, disability compensation or other services. The majority of an estimated 25,000 living former POWs are veterans of World War II who served before the use of Social Security numbers. This has made it difficult for VA officials to track down former military POWs who have not been in contact with the department in recent years. People who know a former POW can ask him or her to contact VA at (800) 827-1000. Details about benefits and services available to former POWs and family members are available at [www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm).

## QUERY

**From:** David Boylan <dboylan5540@charter.net>

**Date:** September 11, 2007 5:04:30 PM PDT

**To:** [elodie@oflag64.org](mailto:elodie@oflag64.org)

**Subject:** (no subject)

I recently learned that my Uncle James Kenneth Davis [picture attached] was at Oflag 64 from August of 44 until the Germans marched them away. He apparently walked away with some other POWs and made contact with the Russians who delivered him to Odessa for transportation home.

I would also like to send out an email to any living veterans of Oflag 64 to see if any one remembers him. He died in 2000 at the age of 88.

Thanks for your help.

*Dave Boylan  
500 Sharondale  
Tullahoma, TN 37388*



## RESPONSE from original query

Yes we were together in Odessa, then we went by an English ship ON THE Black Sea and through the Dardenells & Bosphrus, then to Port Said, Egypt and were there for a short time and then to Naples, Italy and from Naples to our bases in the USA. Lloyd LeClair

## QUERY 2

Dear Lloyd,

You cannot believe how glad I was to get your message. I have been trying for six months to contact some one who actually remembered my Uncle. He talked very little about his war experiences and I have learned very little about what he actually went through as a POW. He told several family members that after the war the government was not appreciative of the POW's in general and was somewhat bitter about this.

Can you tell me how you, my Uncle, and others got away from the column that you were in to allow you to contact the Russian troops.

Also, did you first meet my Uncle in Odessa?? Did you ever see him after the war?? Dave

## RESPONSE 2

**Subject:** Uncle Jim Davis

**Date:** Thu, 13 Sep 2007 12:13:16 -0700

**From:** Lloyd LeClair <lloyd39@comcast.net>

**To:** dboylan5540-charter.net <dboylan5540@charter.net>

Dear Dave:

Your uncle hid from the Germans in Oflag 64 and I was in the Infirmary at the time the Officers were marched out of the camp, then the Russians came and a Russian Officer, who graduated from New York Univ. took us all over Poland, and then to Odessa. By the way, his father was the Ambassador from Russia to the USA and his son spoke 27 languages. He and I got along very well.

I knew your Uncle in Oflag 64, we all new each other, we played Basket Ball, Foot Ball, Etc. The Germans let us do this because we treated the German POWs in the US good also. I never saw any of the POWs after the War that were in Oflag 64. We were appreciated by the



government. I was promoted when I got back in the States. They knew we fought before getting captured.

I have two Bronze Stars from WWII and Silver stars from Korea and I was injured in Pyongyang, North Korea in 1951. I was with the 507<sup>th</sup>. ~ Lloyd

### Have You Heard This Story?

When I attended my first Reunion, '82 I believe, in Miami Beach, as I registered, another first timer was registering, and we introduced ourselves to each other. At some time that evening he told me he was in either the 101st or 82nd Air Div. and was captured in Normandy, I believe. I asked him about his route coming home, and he told me he and his partner had hidden in the White House attic, and took off soon after we marched out. They had made it to Budapest, and ran into an American Officer on the street. He took them to his headquarters, (this would have been in early March, I presume) and they were flown to France and on to Washington, where they made a report to Gen. Marshall, and had lunch with him and others. After 30 or 60 days of R & R, he volunteered to go to the Pacific, and after the Japanese surrendered he and another paratrooper were flown into interior China, and dropped at a civilian POW camp and took over the responsibilities of bringing them back to American or British Units. The following morning I ran into him at the hotel desk, paying his bill. I asked him why he was leaving and he told me "These \*#@%\* were just like they were at Schubin, they ran everything, and treated 'late comers' like \*#@%\*. And he was flying back to California - to \*#@%\* with the Reunion.

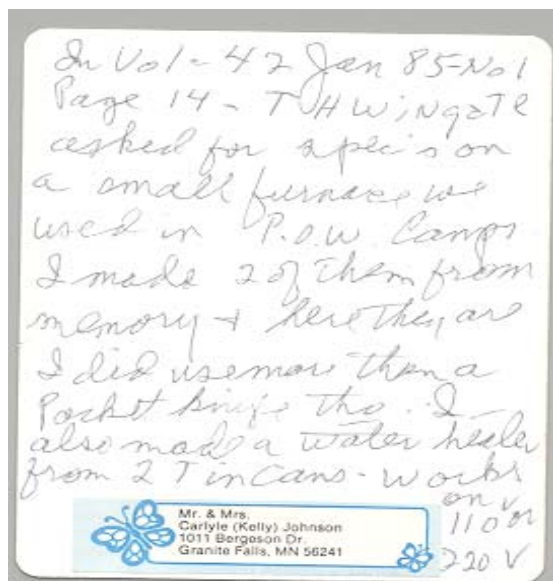
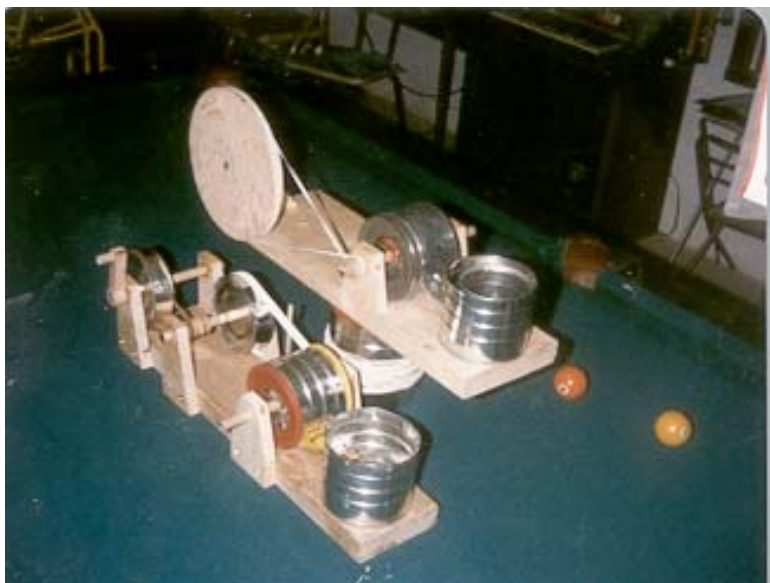
Have you ever heard that story? Of course I don't remember his name, but surely someone would know him. I am forwarding this to Walter Heisler, who was in one of the above Divisions and was captured in Normandy. ~ **Bill Warthen, Vidalia GA**

\* \* \* \* \*

### Does this furnace look familiar?

(found in one of "Ike" Franklin's POW Books)

Submitted by Sharon Hutchison







*Certificate of Appreciation*

*is awarded to*

**Mr. Rolland W. Bill Corbin**

For outstanding service to the Nation as a United States Army Soldier. You are being recognized for your patriotism and continued support of the Army family. Your legacy is today's Army and the values Soldiers exhibit while fighting the Global War on Terrorism. Their efforts are a direct reflection of your service, and the United States Army and a grateful Nation thank you.

*George W. Casey*

George W. Casey, Jr.  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff



*Pete Geren*

Pete Geren  
Secretary of the Army





Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité  
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AUX ETATS-UNIS

*Le Chargé d' Affaires a.i.*  
N° 1217

Washington, July 31, 2007

Dear Mr. Di Francesco:

I am pleased to inform you that on July 25, 2007, the President of the French Republic named you *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* (Knight of the Legion of Honor).

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoléon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of great merit.

This award testifies to the President of the French Republic's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France's true and unforgettable gratitude and appreciation for your personal, precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II. The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of freedom.

It is a personal pleasure for me to convey to you my sincere and warm congratulations.

Sincerely,

François Rivasseau

Mr. Vincent J. Di Francesco  
3158 Gracefield Road Apt. 517  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

## Memories Of An Old Friend

Submitted by Bill Warthen

TO: Roy and Helen Chappell, Bob Thompson, Lucy Lussenden & the Walter Heislrs.

While going through old files in order to make room for new "stuff", I found the enclosed letter that I felt would be of interest to each of you. It's from Henry Soderberg in response to a letter I must have written him in 1989.

Henry was so important to Oflag 64, as well as to the 20 or 30 other Kregie Camps scattered all over Poland and East Germany, and he was most loyal in attending and greatly adding to our Reunions.

Dottie and both our girls sat across the table from them at our 4 hour "Shore Dinner", we enjoyed at our Newport, Rhode Island Reunion., and had such a good time talking to them . I believe he died only two weeks after they returned home.

He came to our Atlanta Reunion a day early and asked where he could get a haircut, and I sent him over to the shopping center across the street. He came back shortly, visibly shaken. He asked what the charges were for a haircut and was told \$75.00. He changed his plans.

At some time, he had told me about witnessing the fire bombing of Dresden, Feb 23<sup>45</sup>. He was visiting the mountain home of a Baroness and her daughter the night of the Raid where over 40,000 people were killed. This was made even more famous by the description in the novel "Slaughter House Five", by an American Kregie, who with many others, had helped bury the dead.

Hope every one is doing well. With our children's help we are going to try and make it to Tulsa, though travel is very tough on Dottie.

Yours truly,

*Bill & Dottie Warthen*  
Bill & Dottie Warthen

1204 Loop Road  
Vidalia, Ga. 30474

P.S. Helen, my recent E mails to you and Roy have come back undelivered, address unknown. Please E Mail me , sending your correct or new E mail address.

(bwarthen@cybersouth.com)

The following letter is the one referenced above.

HENRY SÖDERBERG  
Hasselogränd 18  
162 23 VÄLLINGBY  
Tel. 08-38 52 82, 0494-230 89

SW EDEN

  
SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM  
DENMARK NORWAY SWEDEN

HENRY SÖDERBERG  
VICE PRESIDENT (RET)

May 31, 1989

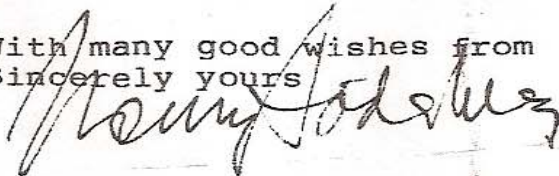
Mr. Wm . D. Warthen

Dear friend,

Many thanks for your kind and heartwarming letter of may 21. Especially for the sake of Frank Diggs I am happy that you enjoyed his bok. Some people think it is too short, also that it is lacking illustrations. On the latter point I agree. There were about 1000 photos to choose from but then the question of production cost came into the picture. Illustrated books are very expensive. I agree with you that the Germans have done a marvellous job in rebuilding their country. But they would never had been able to do so without the generous assistance of the Americans.

You ask about the people at Meissen during the Dresden bombings and what happened to them. The women, old and young, were all raped by the russian soldiers but came away later on alive. The old Baroness lived in southern Germany for many years and devoted herself to religious and philosophical activities. The young Baroness married a Swedish diplomat who later joined a Swedish industrial enterprise as a foreign representative, stationed in Geneva. He is dead but she is still alive and I hear from her from time to time. My very good friend Christian Christiansen, the Dane whom you have read about, is now retired in Denmark after some years of service with the Danish Foreign Office. He has, on my suggestion, been invited to the next reunion with Stalag Luft III in Norfolk, Va., in April 1990 as one of the main speakers. I am happy about this. As for myself I hope to be able to come to the San Diego reunion in October. I was in the USA five times last year, so I am still on the move, even if professionally retired. Once more, thank you so much for writing. And if and when we meet at another reunion, please contact me so that we can have a chat.

With many good wishes from  
Sincerely yours



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## OFLAG 64 POSTAGE FUND

Joe Seringer Treasurer

Statement Of Cash Receipts and Disbursements  
For the period from September 12 2006 to September 15 2007

### Receipts for the period:

Contributions to the Fund	\$ 2865.00
Books	248.50
Interest earned	20.75

Total Cash Received	\$ 3134,25
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### Disbursements For the Period

Copies for the Item	\$ 1775,88
Postage for Item	983.15
Supplies	497,59
War Memorial	1000.00
Flowers & miscellaneous	283,91

Total Cash Disbursed For the Period	\$4540,53
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Excess of Disbursement over Receipts	\$1406,38
Bank Balance September 12 2006	\$13821.91

Bank Balance September 15 2007	\$12415,63
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## ITEM COMMENTS

THANK  
YOU!

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are welcomed and appreciated. Here are some nice comments from some nice folks.

*What a nice issue the last one was of Oflag 64. The way in which you worked in the loss of Bob Cheatham was very attractive. ~ **Herbert L. Garris, Pinehurst NC***

*Thank you for your efforts. I know keeping up with the Post Oflag is a big job. ~ **Judy Husset, Santa Rosa CA***

*I want to compliment you on the beautiful Post Oflag 64 [Fall] Issue, beautifully done and thank you for taking on this responsibility ~ **George Juskalian, Centreville VA***

*Thank you again for the great job on the Item. I really enjoy reading all the information. ~ **Judy Knight, Naperville IL***

*Let me be among all others in thanking you for the excellent job you are doing with the ITEM. How you manage to include so much of interest to us old birds is to me amazing. Thank you for what you do. Again, thank you for publishing a great and interesting newsletter. ~ **Paul D. Marable, Jr., Waco TX.** (Thanks to all who send articles and memorabilia for inclusion in the ITEM.)*

*Sincere thanks to you and all of the descendants and friends who have "stepped up" to keep the Post Oflag 64 ITEM going. God bless you all. ~ **Bob Moorhead, Wallingford PA***

*I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the fine ITEMS we have enjoyed this past year. We appreciate all your talents. ~ **Bill Warthen, Vidalia GA***

## OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

*I am very impressed with the website--outstanding job!~**David Glendinning, Washington D.C.***

*One of my hobbies is military history, especially as it relates to my grandfather's career, and found your website while I was doing some research online. It's a great site and you guys have done a wonderful job putting it together and honoring all those American heroes. I've enjoyed the emails that get distributed to everyone and the articles you have posted.~**John Zelazny, Ft. Lewis WA***

*Thanks again for keeping the Oflag 64 "family" in touch.~**Sharon Hutchison, Arlington TX***

### **New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site**

*David Boylan – nephew of James K. Davis*

*Greg Clingan – son of James L. Clingan*

*David Glendinning – son of John A. Glendinning*

*Rosetta Hargrove – daughter of William F. Higgins*

*Warren L. Jones – son of Charles L. Jones*

*Deborah Koines – daughter of Curtis S. Jones*

*Suzy Parker – daughter of Robert S. Scott*

*John M. Savage – cousin of Joseph P. Savage*

*Linda Sutherland – daughter of John R. Sutherland*

*John Zelazny – grandson of Joseph J. Zelazny, Jr.*



## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications might be of interest to you. Many of them were written by our men. Your local library is a good place to check for availability. If you can't find what you're looking for there, check Amazon.com or write to the author or publisher.

1. **Americans Behind the Barbed Wire** by Frank Diggs, Story of Frank's trip across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Vandemere Press, P. O. Box 5243, Clearwater FL 22205 (New price is \$22.00 and includes Shipping and Handling.)
2. **Diary of A Kriegie** by Ed Beattie. Diary of Ed Beattie, A UPI Correspondent captured near the Moselle River in Sept '44. Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York NY
3. **Escape to Russia** by Howard "BOOMER" Holder. Story of Boomer Holder as he went across Russia in 1945. Publisher: Iberian Publishing Co., Athens GA
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO.
5. **In the Presence of Mine Enemies** by Eugene L Daniel, Contact Rose Daniel at 5100 Sharon Road #603, Charlotte NC 28210-4720.
6. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005.
7. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
8. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY.
9. **Kriegsgefangenen** (Prisoner of War) by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX
10. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL.
11. **Passages to Freedom**, Joseph Frelinghuysen, 1990, Publisher: Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan KS 66502-4228, 800-258-1232 (\$17.95, includes S & H)
12. **Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64** by Clarence Meltesen. Story of Liberation from Oflag 64. Publisher: Oflag 64 Press. San Francisco, CA (\$25.00)
13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95)
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY
15. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA
16. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York, NY (\$11.00)

17. **33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III** by Albert P. Clark. Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, 16100 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 300, Golden CO 80403, 800-992-2908 (17.95 pb)

### Other Publications

These publications are available through the Oflag 64 organization. (Please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail it to Joe Seringer.)

<b>Oflag 64 Audio CD</b>	5.00
<b>The Oflag 64 Directory</b>	3.00
<b>Original Roster-Oflag 64</b>	10.00
<b>The Men of Oflag 64</b>	20.00
<b>My Tour of Russia</b>	5.00
<b>Tribute to TF Baum</b>	15.00
<b>Hammelburg Roster</b>	7.50
<b>The Waters Story</b>	19.50

**WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**Press Releases** by Ted Roggen, 101 Westcott, Houston TX 77007 (\$10.95)

**Vic Kanners Diary.** Contact Dave Kanners, 5479 Sandy Lane, Columbiaville MI 48421, 810-793-2719 (NO CHARGE)

**Raid.** The story of the Task Force Baum raid on the Hammelburg POW Camp. Publisher: Dell Publishing Co. (A few copies are available at \$8 each through our organization. Please make checks payable to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund c/o Elodie Caldwell.)

**Roads to Liberation** by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for a \$5 per copy shipping fee. If you would like a book shipped to you, please contact: Lynne Meltesen

12163 West Exposition Drive  
Lakewood CO 80228-3300  
Phone: 303-987-1833  
Email: [meltelee@q.com](mailto:meltelee@q.com)

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## TAPS



### *Malcolm A. Baldwin, Jr.*

It is my sad duty to inform you that my husband, M. A. Baldwin, Jr. (Mac) has passed away. He always enjoyed the newsletter, and we were able to make a couple of the reunions, in Washington and San Antonio. Please remove his name from your mailing list.

Hope you have a wonderful reunion this year. Thank you, Carol Baldwin

### *William Riley Harrell*

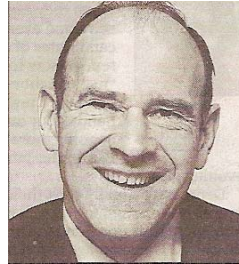
Services for Capt. William Riley Harrell, U.S. Army (Ret.), 89, will be held Monday at 1:00 p.m. at Northeast Presbyterian Church with burial in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Northeast Presbyterian Building Fund, 601 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223. The family will receive friends Sunday from 5-7 p.m. at Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel.

Capt. Harrell died Thursday, September 27, 2007. Born in Donalsonville, Ga., he was a son of the late William Jasper Harrell and Deborah Wolfe Harrell. Capt. Harrell served during WWII and arrived in Normandy two days after D-Day as a member of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was captured August 7, 1944 and was held in Oflag 64, a POW camp in Poland. After a 21-year military career, he served another 21 years with the U.S. forest Service. Capt. Harrell was a



member of the Palmetto Chapter of Ex-POW's and was a volunteer for many years at the Dorn VA Hospital.

### *Edward Emmert Rooney* *(Age 89)*



Was born in Spokane on March 30, 1918 to James C. and Bertha Rooney and passed away on August 23, 2007. He graduated from Whittier Grade School, Lewis & Clark

High School in January 1937 and Kinman Business University in September 1938. He worked for John W. Graham and then salesman for Blake, Moffitt & Towne Paper Co. until he entered the Army on February 13, 1942 and joined the Army Paratroops in July 1942.

Edward was an enlisted man of the 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Inf., 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Army until April 28, 1943 and then was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Assigned to the 507<sup>th</sup> Paratroop Infantry and again to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. He jumped into France June 6, 1944 and his plane was hit before he jumped and he was captured after coming down under fire. He was a P.O.W. until the end of April 1945. He retired from the Army in November 1945 as a captain.



He joined the Spokane Police Dept. January 1, 1946 and retired as a Detective on April 30, 1971. He had worked as a uniform officer and five years as a motorcycle officer.

He built four houses and two houses on Hayden Lake for himself and also built numerous houses along with a six-unit motel in and around Spokane and Reardan, WA. Edward joined Hayden Lake Friends church in 1968.

Before back problems stopped him, he played golf with the Liberty Lake Over the Hill Gang, the B.O.F. golf team and the Spokane Police Golf Team.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 54 Chewelah, WA; VFW Post 1435 Spokane, Inland Empire Chapter of American Ex. Prisoners of War; Spokane Valley Senior Citizen Assoc. and Spokane Valley Elks Lodge.

His first church was a little church in the hills north of Chewelah, WA and the song Church In the Wildwood always reminded him of that little church which no longer exists. It was a church of the Brethren. His teen years and until WWII he belonged to the United Presbyterian Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Adams in Spokane. He and June (Manis) were married in that church on December 31, 1941. So many members left during the war that the church folded. After that and until they found the Friends Church they never went much to any other church.

He is survived by his wife June of 65 years, Spokane; two sons Edward Rooney and wife Suzanne of Deer Park, and Robert W. Rooney and wife Rita of Spokane; a sister Margaret Edwards of Reardan; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers he preferred that a memorial be made to Hayden Lake Friends church, 251 Miles Ave., Hayden Lake, ID 83835. Memorial Services 1:00 PM Wednesday August 29, 2007 Heritage Funeral Chapel.

### *Vernor Edwin Siebert*

SIEBERT Age 84, of Nipomo passed away Thursday, October 11, 2007. Services were held Sunday, October 14, 2007 at the Senior Center in Nipomo. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the D.A.V. Nipomo Chapter #82, 313 West Tunnel St., Santa Maria, CA 93458 or the VFW Post 10978, 471 Violet Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444. He is survived by his family which includes Edith, Betty Lou, Mike, Wendy, Tammy, Michele, Terry, Laurie, Katie, Jeremy,

Jessica, Rebecca, Nathan, Elizabeth, Riley, Victoria, Geraldine, Samantha, Robert, Charlett and Madison.

Vernor Edwin Siebert was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 21, 1923. Several years ago, Bob Behme of the Adobe Press wrote the following article about Vern's experience as a POW during WWII: "Now a Nipomo resident removed from war by 58 years, Vernor Siebert was a then private first class in the famed Blue Devils, a part of the 351st Infantry. In 1944, he was one of the first groups to hit the Italian front, headquarters, 2nd battalion, 88th division. It was Siebert's first taste of war. Part of a communications team, he quickly came under heavy shelling. As Siebert hit the ground, a shell struck beside his foot, but did not explode. Marking the spot, he returned with members of a disposal team who dismantled the bomb. In side was a note that read: "Compliments of the French underground." Sabotage had saved Siebert's foot and possibly his life. A few days later, near a town named Santa Maria, Siebert and other men from Company F were laying wire to an artillery outpost. It was a fierce battle; barely 49 men survived from an original 200. The survivors were moving cautiously toward a farmhouse when Germans appeared, using American prisoners as a shield. The American officer had no choice, he could shoot fellow soldiers or surrender. Company F surrendered.

On May 12, 1944, Siebert's life as a prisoner began. "It's a part of my life I don't like to think about," he said. He was taken to Florence, placed in a boxcar and transported to a POW camp at Moosburg, Germany, near Munich, receiving no food and little water on the trip. Siebert was given POW number 132296 and placed in Stalag 7A. His diet was meager - water soup, potatoes and ersatz coffee occasionally enlivened by small pieces of bread and cheese. Prisoners were forced to fill bomb craters in Munich streets and labored at it daily. With too little food and too much work, Siebert came down with yellow jaundice

and dysentery. Unable to work he was sent by rail to Oflag 64, an officer's POW camp near Schubin, Poland. He was put to work as an officer's orderly. His food rations increased, life improved and for the first time Siebert thought he might survive until the war ended.



In February 1945, Russians were advancing and Siebert and other prisoners were forced to march toward Hammerstein, a town of the German coast. In freezing temperatures, battered by snow, with inadequate clothing, the ragged group moved slowly, pushing a cart with their supplies inside. Several men died. Siebert's feet froze, his hands and arms stiffened until he was unable to move. He expected to be killed. Instead, he was thrown onto the cart and eventually transported to Stalag 3A, a camp near Potsdam. There, on April 27, 1945, Russians liberated his camp. A few days later, a special American service truck picked up the men and took them to Berlin. His days as a POW were over.

During his time in the various stalags, Siebert saw prisoners pistol-whipped and killed but was himself neither mistreated nor interrogated. He was kept on a starvation diet. A sturdy six-footer weighing 190 when he enlisted, his weight had gone down to 160.

Born in Chicago, Seibert returned to the Windy City after the war. He became an auto mechanic, then worked for a local Pontiac dealership as a service manager. He and his wife, Edith, moved to the San Fernando Valley in the 60's, where he accepted a similar position. Later, he worked for CBS building scenery. The couple moved to Nipomo in 1996. His wife served as a private first class in the Army Air Force. A brother, William Siebert, also served in the army. William died in Germany during one of the last battles of the war." When this article first ran, Vern stated that he continued to be haunted by the wounds caused by war.

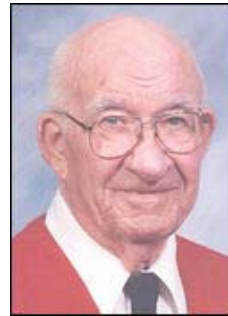
As a fitting tribute to his military service his final resting place will be at Arlington National Cemetery. Arrangements for Mr. Siebert are under the direction of

Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel in Grover Beach.

Published in the Los Angeles Daily News on 10/19/2007.

*John R. Sutherland*

*1918 - 2007*



John R. Sutherland, 88, of Rock Island, died Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at St. Anthony's Continuing Care Center, Rock Island.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rock Island. Visitation will be one hour prior to service time at the church. Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home, Rock Island, is handling arrangements. Inurnment will be 2:30 p.m. Thursday, August 23, at National Cemetery, Rock Island, with military honors given by Moline American Legion Post 246. Those wishing to go to the cemetery should be at the funeral home by 2 p.m. Thursday. Memorials may be made to the church.

John affectionately known as Jock, was born October 13, 1918, in Butler, Pa., the son of James and Ethel Weir Sutherland. He married Lorraine E. Fearing on April 9, 1948, in Allison Park, Pa. He grew up in Butler, Pa., graduating from Carnegie Technical College (now known as Carnegie Mellon University) then earning a Master of Science degree from the University of Dallas.

He served in the European Theater during World War II where he was captured and imprisoned in the German established Oflag (Offizierslager) 64, Szubin, Poland. The initial occupants, some 150 American officers, arrived in the camp on June 6, 1943. By the time the camp was evacuated in January 1945, the number of prisoners had grown to 1,400. The "Kriegies" made the best of their



situation organizing sporting events, musical and theatrical performances and making escape plans. John, one of about 200 successful escapees, earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

John was an instructor at the former Army Munitions and Engineering Training Agency (AMETA) on Arsenal Island, retiring in 1972. In this position he performed numerous Quality studies on Army Ordnance and Munitions and trained hundreds of students in quality in engineering.

After retiring, he and his wife, Lorraine, traveled the United States in their motorhome visiting friends and relatives and doing genealogical research for Clan Sutherland Society of North America (CSSNA). For 20 years, from the time of the Clan formed until April 2005 Jock compiled the ancestry and history for Clan Sutherland. Jock and Lorraine Sutherland were two of the original members of the Society that was formed in 1976. Jock was well known by the Genealogists of Clan Societies throughout North America, and in fact throughout the world.

Jock is survived by his wife, Lorraine; sons, John of New Mexico, and Donald of Rock Island; daughter, Linda of Maryland; granddaughters, Naomi Sutherland and Tinisha Harrison and her husband Todd; grandsons, Caleb, John, and Jerry and his wife Carey Ann; and great-grandsons, Caden, Landon and Shawn. He was preceded by daughter, Susan, and brothers, Edward and James.

He was a father and hero to his children and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Published in the Quad-City Times on 8/17/2007.



**Short histories follow of**  
*William R. Harrell*  
and  
*John (Jock) R. Sutherland*

10/5/07

*Dear Bob, Ellen, and Kathy:*

*[William] was one of the group who left Oflag 64 for a new camp which was supposed to take care of officer Kriegies due to Schubin being full. They were liberated by the Russians about the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, as I recall. He, with some of the members of this group had the usual experience with the Russian liberators, and somehow made it to a train headed for Moscow. They were in the outskirts of Moscow when they were turned around by the Russians and sent south to Odessa. They must have stayed in those box cars for 10-12 days en route. He told me about some of their experiences and they were fascinating but I can't recall anything now.*

*He had been seen in the army as a non-com, and in Central America or the Caribbean and was chosen to go to OCS at Benning, which was only about 50 miles from his hometown of Donaldsonville. He stayed in after 1945, but I don't think he went to Korea.*

*We became good friends with Bob and Diane at our 1995 Reunion in Atlanta. He helped us handle the different groups, and we enjoyed them a great deal at many of our Reunions and at Andersonville.*

*I had known he was not doing well but was not aware that he was in a nursing home.*

*Bill Warthen* 

\* \* \* \* \*

Ms. Caldwell  
2731 Terry Ave.  
Longview, WA 98632-4437

8/21/07

Dear Elodie:

I am enclosing an obituary sent to me by Ms. Linda Sutherland, daughter of John R. (Jock) Sutherland, my very good friend and fellow Kriegy. We were in Co. M. 334th, Inf. 84th Div., each of us were the C.O.s of the machine gun platoons in our Company.

We were close while training in the States, and continued to be in combat, and both were captured the same night, Nov. 30th, though not together. We, with our non-coms, were going forward to locate our platoon positions for a Regimental attack at dawn. The Germans had counterattacked after dark, and though separate we walked right into German patrols. None of the 5 of us were wounded at capture, and all survived our POW experience.

Jock and I shared our food parcels and protected each other until he opted to leave our column on the third morning of our March from Schubin.

We were very close to the Russian lines, and our guards had fled during the night. There were many in our column who wanted to try to reach the Russian Lines, Jock being one of them. We've estimated about 300 in all, the extreme cold and so little food made survival a real consideration. However, as far as we have been able to learn everyone survived. Some joined and fought with the Russians for a short time, others traveled by trains to the outskirts of Moscow, and I met one

fellow at the first Reunion I attended in 1982, which, with his partner, traveled to Budapest.

However, most walked and hitched rides with Russian troops back to Schubin, and on to Warsaw. There they were collected, with hundreds of other American Kriegies, non-coms, air corp, and soldiers who had escaped or been freed by Russian units.

After weeks in Warsaw area they were transported by rail to Odessa. I've seen a list of 2,900 who were transported from Odessa, first to Alexandria where wounded were hospitalized, then on to Naples, where a few left ship to rejoin their units in Germany, and all the rest came back to Boston, I believe sometime in March. Possible you have inherited some of the accounts written by these brave soldiers.

Jock was first Lt., Co. M. 334th Inf. 84th Div., captured Nov. 30th, 44. He and his family lived at Rock Isle, Ill.

Yours truly,



Bill Warthen  
1204 Loop Road  
Vidalia, Ga. 30474