

2009 Late Summer & Fall

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2009 Oflag 64 Reunion Ft. Collins CO September 17- September 20

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

Time is fast approaching for our annual Oflag 64 Reunion in Ft. Collins CO and we hope you'll be able to attend. If you're planning to come but haven't yet registered, it's not too late, but please send in your registration form and registration payment as soon as possible. A reunion registration form and hotel reservation information are included on page 3 of this ITEM.

URGENT: Please make your Hilton Garden Inn Ft. Collins reservations as soon as possible by calling 1-970-225-2900 or by visiting the Oflag 64 personalized site, which the Hilton Garden Inn has created for us. (Their web address is located at the bottom of page 3 in this ITEM.) **The group reservation deadline is August 15. Reservations can be made until then or until the group block is sold out.**

There are two relatively economical shuttles from the Denver airport to Ft. Collins and back. Reservations are advised by not required.

#1 The Super Shuttle 1-800-258-3826. The cost is \$32 per person one way or \$96 for 3 people. Reservations can be made online at: www.supershuttle.com

#2 The Green Ride Colorado 1-888-472-6656. Cost is \$30 per person one way or \$80 for 3 people. (As the number of riders increase, the price per person goes down), Reservations can be made online at: www.greenrideco.com

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Best Regards,

Elodie Caldwell (daughter of Reid Ellsworth)



A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

2009 OFLAG 64 REUNION - FORT COLLINS, CO

Thursday, September 17 – Sunday, September 20

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 17

12:00 – 5:00 Check in, Hospitality Room open all evening

Friday, September 18

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast Buffet** (on your own)

8:45 – 11:30 Business meeting (also guest speaker Diane Tauser, composer of the musical “I’ll Be Seeing You”, WWII love story of Kriegy Don Waful & Cassie)

11:30 Lunch

1:00 -5:00 City of Fort Collins and Budweiser tour, shopping in Old Town

5:30 Dinner on your own and free time

Saturday, September 19

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast Buffet** (on your own - special guest coming)

8:00 – 2:30 Optional Bus tour of Rocky Mountain National Park (includes lunch)

2:30 – 6:00 Free Time

6:00 Drinks and social hour

7:00 – whenever Banquet and entertainment (Dr. Sutherland)



Sunday, September 20

8:00 Breakfast (provided)

9:00 Memorial Service and good-byes



The hospitality room will be open every day for those wishing to visit.

**** Note:** The hotel has a wonderful breakfast buffet in the restaurant daily. It is the same buffet that we would have if we paid for it as a group but is \$2.00 apiece cheaper if we get it individually. Thus, I elected to do it this way except on Sunday. Julie

2009 OFLAG 64 REUNION - FORT COLLINS, CO

Thursday, September 17 – Sunday, September 20

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$150 per person - This includes: Sunday breakfast, the banquet, snacks, the photographer, the meeting rooms, a continuous Hospitality Room stocked with beverages & other goodies, and the tour of the town.

If you or your guest(s) plan to attend the **BANQUET ONLY** (\$30 per person), please check the box next to your banquet choice.

Banquet Choices (select one): (1) Steak (2) Chicken Breast (3) Vegetarian (good!)

Registrant: _____ Kriegy Relationship _____ Banquet Choice ___

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Guest: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice ___

Guest: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice ___

Guest: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice ___

Guest: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice ___

Guest: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice ___

Guest: _____ Kriegy Relationship: _____ Banquet Choice ___

Are special hotel/transportation accommodations needed? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please specify _____

Optional Rocky Mountain National Park Trip = \$57 per person and includes: deluxe motor coach & driver, tour guide for the day, admission to RMNP and lunch. Gratuities for the guide and driver = \$1 per person for each. Tour fee payable at the reunion.

****How many people in your group are expecting to take this tour? _____**

Please mail your completed registration form and check to:
Julie Gionfriddo
15317 Red Canyon Ranch Dr
Loveland CO 80538-9184
Email: gionfri@colostate.edu

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Please make your Hilton Garden Inn Ft. Collins reservations by calling 1-970-225-2900 or by visiting their website at: <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/FNLFCGI-OFR-20090917/index.jhtml>
The group reservation is under "Oflag 64" at the rate of \$93+tax per night and applies 3 days prior to and 3 days following the reunion. **The group reservation deadline is August 15.**



MAIL CALL



LTC JOHN A. ALBREE from Columbus NC (friend of Oflag 64) sent a donation to the Postage Fund in honor and memory of General John K. Waters, with whom he served. *Thanks so much, John, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. Our Oflag 64 family is certainly blessed to have such wonderful support. Please keep in touch.*

JIM BATES from Brentwood TN recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund and a short note about the ITEM. *Thanks so much, Jim, for your thoughtful contribution. We greatly appreciate all our contributors. Thanks also for your kind words about the ITEM. Best Wishes to you. Hope to hear from you again.*



ABE AND EILEEN BAUM from San Diego CA recently emailed a complimentary note along with information that Abe's story and that of the POWs (one part of a series of episodes on "Patton 360") was aired on the History Channel on June 28. *Thanks, Abe and Eileen, for sharing this information. Hopefully many of our Oflag 64 family were able to enjoy it. (As a side note, we noticed that Patton's biographer, Kevin Hymel, was the same Kevin Hymel who attended the Washington D.C. reunion and presented Freedom Team Salute awards to each Kriegy in attendance.) We hope to see you both at a future reunion. Please write again.*

ELEANOR BERTRAND from Baton Rouge LA (Military Historical Tours staff and friend of Oflag 64) has been sending lots of information. Among them, she recently sent a web link to the Department of Defense Wounded Warrior Diaries.



Thank you very much, Ellie, for all the information you've sent. We have added this link to the LINKS page on our website under "Related Web Sites". Please keep us posted on future "Americans in Enemy Hands" tours.

MICHAEL CARLYLE (original musical producer of "I'll Be Seeing You", the real-life WWII love

story of Don and Cassie Wafu) noticed that the link in the last ITEM to the production site was broken and unable to be viewed. He sent the following alternate link.

<http://www.illbeseeingyou.org>

Thanks, Michael, for sending the new link. We're happy that Don and Cassie were able to share a portion of their lives with us through your site. What a great site and a great story. Please write again.



BILL CORY from Louisville KY sent a note recently expressing disappointment that the Oflag 64 MIS-X story was not included in the National Geographic Documentary aired early in August. He mentioned his communications right after the war with Lloyd Shoemaker, author of THE ESCAPE FACTORY, regarding MIS-X. *Thanks, Bill, for writing. We agree, it was a huge disappointment to learn that "our story" would not be included. From emails we've received, however, it appears that National Geographic felt there wasn't enough evidence specific to Oflag 64 to include. We appreciate the work Nils did in making available to National Geographic all that was available. Much work was involved. Please write again.*

DAVID CRIDER from Birmingham AL (nephew of the late Woodrow Hubka) recently sent some helpful information regarding the spelling of a German term and resulting translation on one of our website photo gallery pages. We appreciate updates on anything that is in error. *Thanks, David, for sending the correction. We appreciate the extra eyes that keep us on track and agree with you that the correction makes much more sense. Please keep in touch.*

ELLSWORTH CUNDIFF, JR. from St. Charles MO (son of the late Ellsworth Cundiff Sr.) found our website not long ago and recently wrote: "Dad (Ellsworth Cundiff) died on January 28th of 1997 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery. Dad stayed in the army after the war and retired as a Lt Colonel then went on to get his PHD. and retired again in Athens, Georgia where he had

been a professor at the University of Georgia. Dad contacted malaria in North Africa and at the time of the forced march was in the hospital at Oflag 64. As a result I have his POW diary and almost all of the issues of the Item in like new condition." *Thanks so much, Ellsworth, for writing and sharing information about your dad. We hope you'll be able to attend a future reunion and perhaps bring your dad's diary with you. Great pieces of history are shared at our reunions as we sit and visit with Kriegies and their families each year. Those like-new ITEMS will be a great addition to our website as well. Hope to hear from you again soon.*

STEVEN FISHER (son of the late Leo W. Fisher) recently sent the following email: "I cannot express to you how much the work you are doing has meant to me. My father was Lt. Leo W. Fisher, the author of the article attached to your most recent email. My father died as a young man while I was finishing my senior year of college. We talked so little of the war and his being a POW. I had never seen the article that he wrote about his experiences as a POW. As I read his words I could hear his voice reading it to me. I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to hear his words, expressions and thoughts as if he were telling me the story himself. I haven't cried in years but I could not read his words without remembering again how much I have missed him. Thank you so much!!! You have made my day!!! If my Dad were alive, I am sure he would love to be writing again for the Item!!!" *Thank you very much, Steven, for sharing your thoughts. We're so happy when family "connections" are made and are pleased that you felt that connection to your dad through his articles. Please write again.*

MICHAEL and THOMAS GIBSON (sons of the late Harold L. Gibson) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. Although their dad, another Oflag 64 Kriegy, is deceased their mom has kept his memorabilia in a scrapbook. *Thanks, Michael and Thomas, for contacting us and for sharing your dad's death date and your mom's address. We have added your dad to the TAPS list on line and will be sending your mom future ITEMS. We hope you'll stay in touch.*

WILLIAM R. "BILL" GRAY from Sparta NJ sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with

compliments and a short note saying: "This is one reunion I am really sorry I will have to miss, because I graduated from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins in 1942." *Thanks, Bill, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund and for your kind words. We're sorry that you won't be able to make the reunion in Ft. Collins but also realize that sometimes it's just not possible. Please let us hear from you from time to time.*

ORETTA HAMBLIN from Lawton OK (widow of the late Charles O. B. Hamblin) recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a complimentary note. She also said that she would not be able to attend the reunion due to health reasons. *Thank you, Oretta, for writing and for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. It is so much appreciated. Thank also for your kind words. We send you best wishes in all you do. Please write again.*

VICTORIA L. HERRING from Des Moines IA (daughter of the late Clyde E. Herring) recently sent scanned copies of WWII photos and memorabilia that belonged to her dad. In an email she also mentioned that she would be traveling to Szubin this summer. *Thanks, Victoria, for sharing some of your dad's memorabilia. We'll be uploading much of it to our website soon. We look forward to hearing about your trip to Szubin.*



MARTHA CURTIS HOOVER (daughter of the late Warren T. Curtis) recently found our website and is interested in finding anyone who knew her dad, Warren T. Curtis, who was an Oflag 64 Kriegy. (If you have information to share, please contact Elodie Caldwell using the contact information on the front page of this ITEM. Information will then be forwarded to Martha.) *Thanks, Martha, for contacting us. We have a wonderful Oflag 64 family; always helpful and willing to share what information they may have. We hope you are able to find the information you seek. Please keep in touch.*

MARY SHULAR HOPPER from Conway SC (daughter of William Shular) sent word that her youngest son passed away in April. He and another of her sons, who also passed away several years ago, were both Marines and were very proud of the heritage given to them by their

grandfather. Mary is appreciative of thoughts and prayers offered on behalf of the family. *Mary, we appreciate the information about your sons but are saddened to hear of their passing. We extend our heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathies to you and the family. We know this is a difficult time and that Christopher will be truly missed. May wonderful memories and the support of others sustain you as you grieve. Please let us hear from you again.*

DENNIS JOHNSON from **Lexington KY** (son of the late Errol P. Johnson) sent word that his father passed away on July 2, 2009. (See the **TAPS Section for the obituary.**) *No matter how much we prepare, it's always difficult to lose a loved one. Another great hero and Kriegy will be missed. We send sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Remembering those good times always help in the grieving process. Let us know how you're doing from time to time.*

LTC HERBERT A. JOHNSON from **Mechanicsburg PA** sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a nice letter and a copy of two separate writings by George Juskalian. One was a brief history letter and the other was about their first year of survival in Oflag 64. Interestingly, their celebration of one year of imprisonment occurred on the same day as D-Day, which befuddled their German captors. *Thanks, Herbert, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. Much appreciated. Thanks also for sending a copy of George's one-year anniversary article. It can be found on our website, www.oflag64.org, under Archives/POW Stories/Capture and Camp Life. Our best to you. Please write again.*



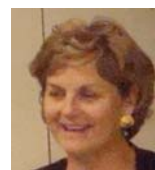
CURTIS JONES from **Vineyard Haven MA** sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a short note saying: "Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the reunion this year. I am unable to travel any distance although my health is ok. I will miss the camaraderie." *Thanks so much, Curtis, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. Always appreciated. We will certainly miss you and Norma at the reunion this year but hope to see you again in the future. Best wishes to you both. Please keep in touch.*

GEORGE JUSKALIAN from **Centreville VA** sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a complimentary note about the ITEM. As you may remember from the last ITEM, George and Bill Sharpe were recently involved with a WWII Oral History Day at a middle school in Virginia. *Thanks, George, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. We are very grateful for such wonderful support of the ITEM. We hope all is well with you and that you enjoy more History Days in the future. Please let us know how you are doing from time to time.*



MARCIA KANNERS from **Beverly Hills MI** (widow of the late Victor Kanners) recently sent a contribution to the Postage Fund and also sad news of the death of her son, Dave. Although very energetic and up for many physical challenges, Dave lost his battle with cancer in March. With Marcia's letter were two newspaper articles describing Dave and his adventures. She said: "Reading over that article about Dave made me realize that he had all the attributes needed to make a good Kriegy. Like Father, Like Son". In her letter Marcia also mentioned her own health challenges, particularly with arthritis pain, and is probably looking at surgery in the not-too-distant future. *Thanks, Marcia, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund and also for updating us on your son. We send sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences to you and your family as you make adjustments. We know he will be greatly missed. We apologize for not including the articles in this ITEM. They were not available on line and we weren't able to do a good quality scan and have them still fit on the page. We hope folks will be able to view them by other means (Lansing State Journal, 6/2/09 or Detroit Free Press, 4/20/09). Best Wishes to you. Please keep us posted on your surgery. Hope to see you soon.*

ANNE KREUTZER from **Woodbridge VA** (daughter of the late Nathaniel Hoskot) sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with photos and information about her dad. She also sent a photo of Nick Rahal's funeral procession at



Arlington National Cemetery. (See the **Information Station and TAPS sections of this ITEM.**) *Thanks so much, Anne, for your generous and thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. Thanks also for the amazing photos and information you sent. Looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion in September. Please keep in touch.*



ROBERT E. LEVIN from Southern Pines NC sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a short note and before and after photos of himself. He stated: "I used to be involved with Oflag 64 with Herb

Garris. The last reunion my wife and I attended was the one held in Kentucky a number of years ago. Since then my eyesight has failed and I do not do much traveling. Herb keeps me informed and I am able to read the "ITEM" with my closed circuit TV." *Thanks, Robert, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund and for your kind words. The photos you sent are great. At some point in the future, we hope to have a "then and now" page on our website photo gallery. We send our best to you and your family. Please write again.*

HERMAN "HERM" LITTMAN from Spokane WA sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a photo and short note saying "I am also adding a photo of a medallion which was presented to me by the commander of the Survival School at Fairchild AFB for 'services rendered'. I feel quite honored and am happy they think my talks helped their instructors." He added that although there is little joy since his wife Lucy passed away, he finds some comfort watching his great grandchildren developing into musicians, ballet dancers, little leaguers and good students, getting good grades in school. He sent his love and hopes to be able to attend the next reunion.



Thanks, Herm, for writing and for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. Congratulations on receiving the medallion. It's beautiful and what a nice token of their appreciation! We look forward to seeing you in



Ft. Collins and will miss seeing your sweet Lucy by your side. Please write again soon.

CHRIS MCCAIN from Brenham TX (grandson-in-law of Charlie Buerger) recently found our website and asked about adding Charlie's information to our website. He shared: "When I found out about Charlie being a WWII POW, I just needed to know more, not only for me but my wife's family too. Charlie would never open up to them and talk about his experiences in WWII. So, during the 4-hour trips to our hunting lease in west Texas, I would ask a few questions and he would open up and start talking. Since then I have wanted to find out more, I have purchased the video "Oflag 64 a POW Odyssey" and that has helped me put some pieces together.

After watching the video, I asked Charlie about the "bird" that they had at the camp. Charlie looked at me with a shocked look, it was like I had told a secret that I wasn't supposed to talk about. Then the information started flowing, he had told me the parts for the radio were shipped in the Red Cross parcels to POW's names that did not exist, so those parcels were set aside. And once the parts were assembled they would take turns guarding the building where it was housed.

The information I have is his original handwritten account of the march from Poland, some electrical notes from a class (he said he learned to be an electrician while a POW and he was an electrician for many years in Brenham TX), notes from a Spanish class, a few "Oflag Item", programs from the Little Theater (Room Service, Full Swing, The Man who Came to Dinner), notes about the Red Cross parcels, notes about meal ideas, and a form filled out in German (I'm not sure if this is his release from German hands), and I have a picture of Charlie in group of men in Washington DC....

Charlie is still living and was in relatively good health until a few weeks ago, he had major surgery (colon) that he is still trying to get over. Up until then he was still very active, still doing farm work in his tractor and tending to his cattle even after two broken hips. He is in the nursing home, is there any way you could send me the hardcopy of the ITEM? I'll make sure he gets it!!!!!"

Thanks so much, Chris, for contacting us, and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Thanks also for the information you have shared about your

grandfather-in-law. What a wonderful experience you have had with him! We hope you have many more as you learn more about his POW experiences. Please keep in touch.

BEN MORTON from Houston TX (friend of the late Kriegy Craig Campbell and a former Navy Officer/WWII and Korean War) recently found our website and wrote the following: "This is to thank all of those who set up and provided the information on this site. I later became a close personal friend of Craig Campbell. We first met in 1955 when we both were employed by the Humble Oil & Refining Company (now part of Exxon/Mobil) in Houston, Texas. We carpooled together for about seven years when he filled us in on his experiences during WWII as an Aide de Camp to General Eisenhower and later as a POW in Poland....Craig retired to Lakeway, Texas, where he lived about 1/2 mile from my son. I last saw him in the late 1990s when I enjoyed lunch with Mary Frances and him. He passed away in 2001, but I remember him fondly as an outspoken--but true friend. A couple of weeks ago I mentioned some of his stories to my son who then located this information on the internet." *Thanks so much, Ben, for writing and for sharing information about another one of our Kriegy heroes. We welcome you to our Oflag 64 family and hope you'll write again.*

DALE NITZ from Port Orchard WA recently found our website and asked to be added to our mailing list. He also shared the following information: "I have an extensive collection of uniforms, papers, and photos from Oflag 64 POW, James W. Lockett. I have one-of-a-kind artifacts from this man's estate that were purchased through a local dealer after his estate sale had ended. I have had these on display in my museum on wheels for several years....I have his escape maps and a photo of him and three officers that he was with when the 44th division picked them up in Germany. He was captured in the Hoertgen Forest Nov. 4, 1944 and was MIA until Jan. 31, 1945. He rejoined the allies April 2, 1945. The original army photo I have is dated April 3, 1945. The 3 maps I have show the route of march from Oflag 64 and the route of escape from Hammelburg. Col Lockett lived in Tacoma WA and died Dec. 13, 1990." *Thanks, Dale, for sharing this information. We have included the photos you sent in the*

"Information Station" section of this ITEM. The people in your area certainly have a wonderful opportunity to learn more of the history of WWII through your museum. Please write again.

REGINA OLDFIELD from Westfield NJ (daughter of the late John C. Oldfield) recently sent compliments on the work we do and also commented "My dad was a POW at Oflag 64 and while I haven't been able to make contact with someone who knew him, my mother loves hearing the news." *Thanks, Regina, for writing and for your kind words. Waiting to hear from someone who knew our loved ones is sometimes difficult, but from time to time we do receive helpful information from a new Oflag 64 family member. We hope that happens for you. Best wishes. Please keep in touch.*



RICHARD B. PARKER from Washington D.C. recently wrote with compliments on our Oflag 64 efforts. He also said that he wouldn't be able to attend the Ft. Collins Reunion due to his wife's poor health and his need to be close to her. *Thanks, Dick, for writing and for your kind words. We will miss you at the reunion but understand the need to stay close to home. Please write again.*

DAVID PRESLEY (son of the late Kernal B. Presley) recently found our website and asked to be added to our mailing list. He also would like any information that people who knew his dad might be willing to share. (phone # 949-831-7195) In reference to his dad, he stated: "My father was captured in the Battle of the Bulge....Unfortunately, my Father died in 1973. But, I have made a real effort to extract many facts and info on him....The Dept. of the Army sent duplicates of all the medals he won...From the Purple Heart, POW medal down to his Reserve duty medal. I was so proud to receive them. I did not ask for them...They were sent gratis." *Welcome to our Oflag 64 family, David, and thanks for writing and sharing information about receiving duplicates of your dad's medals. This is great information for others looking to do the same thing. Members of our group are great at sharing information. We hope you'll hear from some of them soon. Please write again.*

EDMON L. (TED) RINEHART from **Montgomery AL** sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a note and a copy of an obituary for Kriegy Enoch L. Northcutt. **(Please see the TAPS Section for the obituary.)**



In Ted's letter he asked if anyone has a "written record of Col. Van Vliet's presentation about the Katyn Massacre which he gave at the Orlando FL meeting some 20 odd years ago." If so, Ted would like a copy and is willing to pay for copies and postage. He has sent a request to Ray Towers Jr. at the address listed in our Publications Section for a copy of the Katyn Forest Video but has not received a one as of yet. Please let me (Elodie) know if you have either of these items and would be willing to share. *Thanks so much, Ted, for writing and for your thoughtful and much appreciated contribution to the Postage Fund. We are in the process of tracking down information on the Katyn Massacre. There is also some good information online at: http://www.electronicmuseum.ca/Poland-WW2/katyn_memorial_wall/kmw_vanvliet.html Hope to see you at the next reunion. Best wishes to you and your family.*

JUDITH RING (niece of the late Louis Gershenow) recently found our website and thought she had identified her uncle in our website gallery photos. However, upon closer inspection, she was not able to make a positive identification. If you have information to share or photos that include Louis Gershenow, please send them to me (Elodie) and I will forward them on to Judith. *Thanks, Judith, for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We understand the frustration of trying to find people or things that just don't seem to be there. Please keep us posted on your search.*

EDWARD L. ROBINSON (son of the late Hervey H. Robinson) recently found our website and asked to be added to our mailing list. Ed is the brother of Katherine Robinson Stevenson, who contacted us last fall. In his email, Ed commented: "I only wish I had found your site long before my father's passing on 27 Nov 2008 (Thanksgiving morning). Would it be possible to obtain the names of the other men who along with my father were instrumental in digging and occupying the tunnel at the point of the German's hasty retreat in advance of the

Russian army's push into Poland?" Since this contact, Ed has corresponded with Bill Cory regarding those days. *Thanks, Ed, for contacting us, and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. You'll find a very helpful and friendly group of people, always willing to share what they know. You've been added to our mailing list and should receive future updates, queries, and information. Please write again.*

CHUCK SIKES (son of the late Julian M. Sikes) recently found our website, asked to be added to our mailing list, and corrected the misspelling of his dad's name on our Oflag 64 database. It was incorrectly listed as Julian M. Sikas but has now been updated. In a subsequent email Chuck stated: "Our father passed away in October of 1981. We knew he was a POW in WWII but he never talked about his experiences so we did not know much about it. When our mother passed away in 2006, we found a Whitman's sampler box with newspaper clippings, Oflag 64 ID, and other assorted stuff. From this information I was able to use the web to find out more. I know he was one of the 100 or so Americans left at the camp when the Russians liberated them in Jan of 1945. His feet had been badly frostbitten so he was with the group of infirmed. He was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge. It has been a very interesting journey in researching the information and I thank you for your work on the website." *Welcome, Chuck, to our Oflag 64 family and thanks sharing his information on your dad. We hope after reading this entry in the ITEM, that others may remember him and be able to help fill in some of the gaps. Please keep in touch.*

RENE TESAR (researching for a book to include the late Kriegy Otto Masny) recently found our website and is interested in obtaining the following information: when Otto arrived at Oflag 64, if he was liberated after the march to Hammelburg or evacuated to Odessa. After searching our database, we found an arrival date and that Otto departed from Odessa. If anyone has more specific information, perhaps relating to an escape from the long march, etc, please let me (Elodie) know. I will be glad to forward the information along. *Welcome, Rene, to our Oflag 64 family, and thanks for contacting us. We hope the information you receive on Otto will be of help to you in your search for*

more specifics. Please keep us posted on what you learn.



FRANK VAN LUNTEREN from Arnhem, The Netherlands (Dutch historian and History teacher, also a friend of Oflag 64) sent an old photo of the 504th PIR. Shown in the photo are a few of our

deceased Kriegies such as Lou Otterbein, Bill Fabian, and Charles Kouns. The photo can be found on our website on the LINKS page under PHOTOS. *Thanks, Frank, for the copy of the photo. What a nice piece of history. Continued best wishes to you on your book. Please update us on your progress from time to time.*

DONNIE WARREN (grandson of the late James C. Nesbit) recently found our website and contacted us hoping for information on his grandfather. [<firefly1973@embarqmail.com>](mailto:firefly1973@embarqmail.com) He wrote: "My grandfather James C. Nesbit was a POW at Oflag 64. I wanted to send you information for your site. My grandfather never forgot his experience in the camps. I was wondering if any of the other veterans had stories or photos to share of granddad.Thanks for your site and the many sacrifices that were made by those it honors." *Thanks, Donnie. for contacting us, and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We look forward to receiving information on your grandfather to add to our website. We also hope you hear soon from others who may have information to share with you. Please keep in touch.*

PAM WHEELER WATERS (daughter of the late Bertram A. Wheeler) recently found our website and shared the following information about her father. "My father passed away on Christmas day 1990....He was 26 when he was commissioned a second lieutenant while serving in France. He participated in the battles and campaigns of Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy D-Day Invasion, Northern France and Central Europe and in North Africa where in the shade it was 120 degrees and his nose broke open and bled. He had received the Legion of Merit and later the Purple Heart for wounds in the arm, shrapnel he told me in battle. He was a prisoner of war after capture on the Meuse River. He had escaped and was recaptured. He was taken prisoner September

6th in Belgium. He was on the march from one prisoner of war camp to another, a march of over 300 miles. He was sited for bravery for dressing the wounds of a comrade under fire in the Tunisian campaign. He served under Medal of Honor recipient, then Captain Matt Urban, and I would not be surprised if the wounds he dressed were not those of Matt Urban although I do not know that for a fact. He was also awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal for the meritorious ground combat against the armed enemy during the Sicily campaign in the Mediterranean Theater of operations, while assigned as staff sergeant, 60th Infantry Regiment, May 1944. His unit received Unit Citation, American Defense Ribbon, EAME Ribbon battlefield appointment to 2nd Lt....He would only tell of the humorous things that happened never about the gruesome details....I do believe he did say that he had to eat a rat once and I am not sure where he was when he had to do that but believe it was while a POW." *Thanks very much, Pam, for sharing information about your dad. It not only brings memories to mind for POWs but also helps family members understand what life was like during that time. Hope to hear from you again.*

Postage Fund Donors

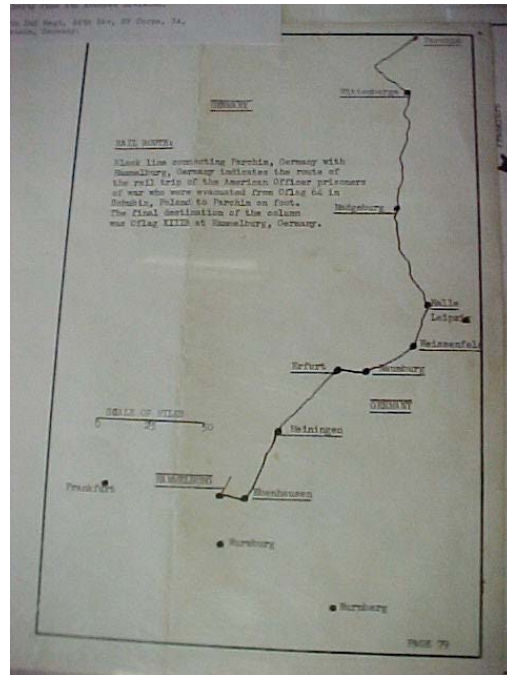
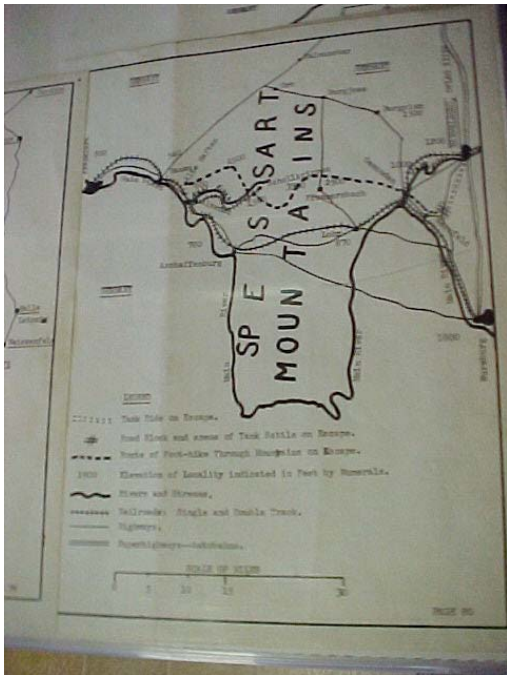
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INFORMATION STATION



The one photo I have of the POWs shows Lockett 4th from the left and the description of the photo names the 5 officers and the home towns. Your POW list only lists 3 of the 4 POWs in this photo. I know that they escaped in groups of three. The 4th POW may have been from another camp. My photos are not the best reproductions but the originals are crisp and clear. I have not seen Lockett's detailed maps on any website so far. I believe that these were part of his report to the IO with G2 and are original copies he obtained from the Army.

Submitted by Dale Nitz who purchased these items after Col. James Lockett's estate sale ended.



3 April 1945

Capt. Francis A. Sadowski, Gilbertsville, Mass.;
 Lt Col William Z. Martz, Pottsville, Pa.;
 Maj Ernest Cassiday, Lexington, Ky;
 Lt Col James W. Lockett, Springfield, Ohio;
 speaking to Capt. Louis Torgeson, 7924 S. 35th St.
 Portland, Oregon, after their escape from German
 prison at Hammelburg, Germany, which was raided
 by party from 4th Armored Division.

324th Inf Regt, 44th Div, XV Corps, 7A,
 Herstein, Germany.



Above photo: Group of POWs at repatriation center; 4 are from Oflag 64, all in rear row standing:
 Lt. Frank Maxwell (infantry), far right
 Lt. Higgins, (infantry), 4th from left
 Capt. Myrick Monroe (medic), 2nd from left
 Lt. Col. N. R. Hoskot (airborne), far left



Left photo: This has an interesting story. It was taken by a German Army photographer in late June, 1944 as Nathaniel Hoskot, captured June 7, 1944, was being interrogated by the Germans. It was published in the German Army magazine, UNSER HERR, and the caption translates roughly that Nathaniel is "arrogant, self-confident and says that the U.S., Great Britain and Russia will win the war and divide the world into three spheres of influence." Shortly after that he was clapped in solitary confinement for 3 weeks in Chalon-sur-Marne, France.

The wild part about this photo (this is the original magazine clipping) is that Nathaniel's cousin, Tiger Payne, FOUND this German-language magazine in German Headquarters in Cherbourg after the US had routed the Germans. He was just leafing through it, and bam -there was Nathaniel! What a coincidence and surprise!

Photos and explanations submitted by Anne Kreutzer, daughter of the late Kriegy, Nathaniel R. Hoskot

Prisoner 1573

World War II veteran recounts his time as a German POW and the covert government plan to free him.

[Photos and Story By Aaron Stern/The Connection](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009



Wilbur Blaine "Bill" Sharpe was Prisoner 1573 when he was held by the Germans during World War II at Oflag 64, a prison camp for commissioned officers. Now an Ashburn resident, Sharpe will be featured in an upcoming television documentary about a covert U.S. government operation that smuggled equipment into such camps to help POWs plan and execute escapes.

The edge of the German POW camp Oflag 64 was a place of constant activity from the summer of 1943 into the winter of 1945. One building served as a makeshift chapel for the American military officers interred at the camp by the German army, and another building was the site of constant rehearsals for a ragtag theater company. Nearby a ball field buzzed with imprisoned officers trying to outwit and outpitch one another in spirited baseball games cheered on by their comrades-in-arms.

It was there, along the sidelines of those games, that perhaps the Germans would have noticed what was going on.

Those onlookers.

They cheered vigorously, yet if one looked closer it might have been seen that their pantlegs, curiously plump as they approached the field, were loose against their gaunt bodies as they turned and walked away from the dusty field. They walked to the nearby latrine and when they walked back to the ball field their pants again bulged ever so slightly.

Wilbur "Bill" Sharpe often was one of those onlookers.

Inside their trousers were false pantlegs of burlap, closed at the bottom with a string, and stuffed with the dirt dug from a secret tunnel that led from beneath the latrine towards the perimeter fence of Oflag 64. Sharpe and others would cheer their baseball-playing mates, jump up and down, and surreptitiously loose the strings at the bottom of their pants and shake their legs empty of dirt onto the ratty field.

"Six or eight guys can move an awful lot of dirt in a short time that way," Sharpe said.

SHARPE SPENT 19 months at Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland. Captured in North Africa with the other members of the U.S. Army's 17th Field Artillery Battalion on Valentine's Day, 1943 at the Faid Pass, Battle of Kasserine, 2nd Lieutenant Sharpe and his fellow soldiers were able to destroy their weapons before being taken by the forces of the so-called "Desert Fox," legendary German General Erwin Rommel.

"He got us. We were captured by the best," said Sharpe. "He was a genius."

They were transported briefly to a POW camp filled with British officers captured at the 1940 Battle of Dunkirk, then to Oflag 64, a camp for commissioned officers that, by the standards set forth by the Geneva Conventions, was far less brutal than POW camps for enlisted men.

The officers there were not permitted to perform manual labor and they had books to read. They had enough musical instruments to form a 16-piece band, enough equipment for their baseball games, and through agreements between the Red Cross and the YMCA, officers at such camps were able to send and receive mail from home, said Sharpe. They didn't eat much — meals consisted of watery soup and sour bread and by the time he was liberated Sharpe weighed just 96 lbs., far shy of the 150 lbs. he

was captured with — but care packages from the Red Cross rationed between bunkmates to make them last longer got them through.

"If it weren't for the Red Cross I wouldn't be here today," Sharpe said.

It was one of those letters from home that tipped off Sharpe that something was afoot at Oflag 64. The letter came from a supposed relative who shared Sharpe's last name that Sharpe had never met or even heard of. The letter, it turned out, wasn't for Sharpe at all, but for one of the higher-ranking imprisoned officers, and it wasn't from a long lost relative either. It was from a covert government operation called MIS-X.

According to correspondence between Sharpe and the producer of an upcoming National Geographic Channel documentary, MIS-X was an ultra-secretive U.S. Intelligence subgroup that funneled information and equipment to the prisoners of the German POW camps to aid in their potential escapes.

What Sharpe knows is that indeed some packages did contain hidden equipment. The handle of a hairbrush, for instance, could contain compass needles, maps, and German currency. The correspondence between Sharpe and the National Geographic producer alludes to guns that were obtained by the upper echelon officers held at Oflag 64 but Sharpe said that neither from his personal knowledge nor through conversations with the scant remaining survivors that he has kept in touch with can he verify that that ever took place.

What he does know is that through the combined efforts of MIS-X — the existence of which Sharpe said was not declassified until within the last five years — and the covert operations of the imprisoned Americans, escape from Oflag 64 loomed within grasp but was never attained. Sharpe, just 20 at the time he was captured, was not in the loop of sensitive information or escape plans but he said that only one attempt at escape was ever made. The few who made it under the fence were soon recaptured by the Germans and spent 45 days in solitary confinement, giving pause to future escape plans.

Yet the Germans still did not detect the tunnel, Sharpe said. They did not find its entrance in the deep pit below the toilets. They did not find the missing slats of bed frames that supported the tunnel, nor did they notice missing mattresses whose burlap covers were torn and sewn into the clandestine dirt carrying tubes.

"They even came to our [theater] programs and we were digging right under them at the time," said Sharpe.

OTHER ATTEMPTS to escape were planned but never executed. Then, in January of 1945 with the Russian military bearing down on the German occupation Sharpe and his comrades were marched out of Oflag 64 by the retreating Germans. They marched for eight days through the snow-covered country side, bedding at night in abandoned barns, sleeping against one another for warmth. On the morning of the ninth day, Sharpe and two of his fellow officers didn't report for rollcall to march, hiding out instead in the haymow they had slept in the night before. The Russians were advancing too quickly for the Germans to search for them and left without the three soldiers.

Upon meeting with the Russian forces Sharpe and company were not immediately transferred to American forces. Instead, said Sharpe, they were stripped of their belongings and forced into service with the Russian infantry. Sharpe supposes that what he saw in that next month is not indicative of Russians today, but still he holds a grudge. He witnessed German civilians killed and raped, their homes looted by Russian soldiers as they advanced towards Berlin.

"They were miserable people," Sharpe said of the Russians.

Eventually Sharpe and his friends stole a Russian Jeep and made it to the rear of the Russian ranks where they found sympathetic officers and were eventually transferred back to American hands.

AFTER THE WAR Sharpe returned to his native Indiana where he met and married his wife, Mary. He remained in the Army Reserve then returned to action in the Korean War, where he said he fired the first combat salvo of the conflict from his 8-inch Howitzer battery. He returned home in 1952 after six months of service.

Sharpe then left the Army with the rank of Captain and spent the next 50 years working in retail. He and Mary moved to the Washington, D.C. area and Sharpe went to work for Kay Jewelers before opening up new stores for the expanding Woodward & Lothrop department chain as it grew through

Maryland and Virginia. He retired, finally, in 2001 after working first for Burberry, opening their first D.C. store, and then Charles Schwartz & Son Jewelers.

"His fuse was getting short," said Mary Sharpe as they sat in their new condo at the Ashby Ponds Retirement Living Facility in Ashburn earlier this week. They moved there from Bethesda, Md. late last year after selling the home they had lived in for 48 years.

While Bill Sharpe was out doing the retail work, Mary stayed at home raising their daughter and keeping the home front running smoothly.

"She did all the hard work," Sharpe said.

These days Bill Sharpe keeps in touch with a few remaining from his time in Oflag 64, the memories of which were stirred last November when he was interviewed for the National Geographic special which is slated to air at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 2. But there aren't many of his old friends from the 17th left, a hard truth that Sharpe, now 87, acknowledged with a small catch in his voice.

"We lose a lot of them every year," he said.

After nearly two years as a German POW in World War II Bill Sharpe served as an artillery officer in the Korean War before returning home and working in retail for the next 50 years. He and his wife of 63 years, Mary Sharpe, now live in the Ashby Ponds Retirement Living facility in Ashburn.



<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=330846&paper=83&cat=104>

* * * * *

Reflections of Robert Galloway, son-in-law of Pat Waters

.....Speaking of **Bill Warthen**, a Citadel graduate and one of the smartest men I've met over the years, I miss him. Mr. Warthen shared with me some of his prize collections including the late Clarence Meltesen's amazing chronicle of the men of the camp. I was on an ESPN shoot in Canada and as I passed through customs and walked into Calgary, my eyes opened wide. I had left this book on the baggage buggy. Have you ever tried to go back in to Customs once you're out? It is pretty much impossible. But I wasn't leaving until I found that book! And I did.

Tonight I am reminded of these Oflag images, shared with me by many who have died, others who still salute their country each morning.

Bill Warthen, also recalled the man who traded his loaf of bread for a pair of boots on the march.

As the late journalist, **Frank Diggs** told me during our work on "Oflag 64, A POW Odyssey," it was a different kind of America then.

Rod Peeples, remembering Lt. Colonel Waters leading the men into the march each morning, "Forward.....Ho."

Joe Ainsworth, who thought he was going to perish on the march, but his friends put a blanket on him, and warmed him with courage.

George Juskalian who watched a German guard step on a copy of "Mein Kampf"

Don Lussenden, who used his talents in the camp to repair books for their library.

Irv Yarock, who described then tunnel that could have brought the group to freedom, or to the same fate as the men of Stalag 17.

Herb Garris who so calmly spoke of what goes through the mind when one is faced with a gun pointing directly at him, as close as he could be to death.

Lewis Lowe, who seemed even when I talked to him to still taste the cabbage soup, and it wasn't a good taste, but it was better than nothing.

Ed Graf remembered how awful it was to be paraded through the streets of Paris as POWs while people spit on them.

Cheerful Charlie Cheatham who described how the men made make-shift sleds for their march.

Albert Cecil could not have described in better detail how he hid in a farmhouse in France, hoping the German soldier entering would not see him.

Roy Chappell and I talked for hours about his two escapes. He drew maps and pictures, and I listened and tried to imagine the fear and bravery.

Curtis Jones made me laugh when he told me about Abe Baum's tanks rolling into Hammelburg. He said, "I got under the bed.. under the bed.. I figured better to be a live coward than a dead hero." But it wasn't funny really. Coward? A man who marched 300kms in the dead of winter and remembers marching into Hammelburg, with his fellow comrades and their heads held high?

Jim Bickers, he could not help but honor Col. Drake for telling Oberst Schneider to stop sending dogs through their barracks. The dogs would defecate on the floor. "Would you want your men to have dogs defecate on their floor?" That's all it took to stop the dogs.

Ed Batte still carries a \$2 dollar bill, as he did while at Oflag 64. Why? It brought him good luck still, years after Oflag 64.

Royal Lee amazed me with how he helped smuggle packages into and out of camp.

John Creech used his education in horticulture to nourish the men, planting a garden.

Bob Thompson recalls standing in a line waiting to be shot by his German captors. Afterwards, still alive, he said, "why didn't they shoot us?" An American soldier who understood German told him, "because we didn't shoot at them."

Don Waful played in the band and acted in the plays to provide some calm in a storm of fear.

Ted Rinehart could not say enough about the respect they had for my father-in-law's dad..

We called them heroes. "No, Robert, we're survivors; the heroes are buried over there," **Walt Heisler** quietly said to me.

Pat Waters and I stood quietly along a stretch of highway that his father and the so many others had marched. I will never forget Pat gazing over at me and saying, "can you imagine what it would be like not to know where you were marching and if the end was life or death?"

To every single man who served behind the barbed wire in Szubin, Poland, thank you for opening up to us in your days, because it gives us a measurement of ourselves, of hope, and of our responsibility to teach our children about freedom.

Thanks very much Robert. So beautifully written and so heartfelt.



ITEM COMMENTS

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



Thanks for the newsletter. I enjoy it. ~ **Jim Bates, Brentwood TN**

The Oflag Item publication was OUTSTANDING!! I think it was the most informational of any you have printed. Thank you so much. ~ **Helen Chappell, Kaufman TX**

Just want to say I think it is wonderful that you “young-uns” want to keep the reunions and the Item going. And you are doing a wonderful job. ~ **Oretta Hamblin, Lawton OK**

How does one continue to surpass what has already reached superlative. I must confess I don't know, but you do in each successive issue of the ITEM. You have done it again with the 2009 Summer edition....Let me extend my heartfelt thanks to you, Elodie, and your colleagues for assuming the no-small-task of continuing the Post Oflag 64 Item in such a professional and endearing manner. I look forward eagerly to each issue and take pride in showing it to other veterans and interested neighbors and friends. ~ **George Juskalian, Centreville VA**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

New to the Oflag 64 Family

Michael Carlyle – Original producer of the musical “I'll Be Seeing You”

Martha Curtis Hoover – Daughter of the late Warren T. Curtis

Michael Gibson – Son of the late Harold L. Gibson

Thomas Gibson – Son of the late Harold L. Gibson

Chris McCain – Grandson-in-law of Charlie Buerger

Ben Morton – Friend of the late Craig Campbell

Dale Nitz – Museum on Wheels featuring Oflag 64 Memorabilia

David Presley – Son of the late Kernal B. Presley

Judith Ring – Niece of the late Louis Gershenow

Edward Robinson – Son of the late Hervey H. Robinson

Karen Rossi – Great niece of the late Thomas D. Drake

Chuck Sikes – Son of the late Julian M. Sikes

Rene Tesar – Researcher for a book to include the late Otto Masny

Donnie Warren – Grandson of the late James C. Nesbit

Pam Wheeler Waters – Daughter of the late Bertram A. Wheeler



You and yours are to be congratulated on an outstanding web site. The audio portion brought tears to my eyes. You have done a wonderful service to the POWs of Oflag 64 and their families. ~ **Eleanor Bertrand, Baton Rouge LA**

This is to thank all of those who set up and provided the information on this site. ~ **Ben Morton, Houston TX**

It has been a very interesting journey in researching the information and I thank you for your work on the website. ~ **Chuck Sikes**

Thanks for your site and the many sacrifices that were made by those it honors. ~ **Donnie Warren**

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, write to the author or publisher or click on the links below.

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 \$24.95/Hardcover) <http://www.vandemere.com/diggs.htm> or <http://www.amazon.ca/Americans-Behind-Barbed-Wire-Inside/dp/0743474821>
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 <http://www.amazon.com/Diary-Kriegie-Edward-W-Beattie/dp/B0007E4AUA>
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 http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Russia-Howard-Randolph-Holder/dp/B0006F7X72/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226549191&sr=1-1
4. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this&x=0&y=0
5. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Justifiable+Pride&x=13&y=17
6. **Katyn Forest Video** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871
7. **Kriegie** by Kenneth Simmons. Diary of an Air Force Pilot. Publisher: Thomas Nelson and Sons. New York NY. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Kriegie+by+Kenneth+Simmons&x=0&y=0
8. **Kriegsgefangenen** (Prisoner of War) by Clarence Ferguson. Publisher: Texan Press, Waco TX http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_b?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Prisoner+of+War+by+Clarence+Ferguson&x=16&y=17
9. **OFLAG 64, 50th Anniversary Book.** Anniversary Committee. Publisher: Evanston Publishing Co., Evanston IL. http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1
10. **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) http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1
11. **Oflag 64: A P.O.W. Odyssey**, DVD, Robert Galloway Media, LLC; 900 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Suite 108; Mount Pleasant SC 29464 (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway Media, LLC)
12. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles T. Marshall, Publisher: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. (\$29.95) http://www.amazon.com/Ramble-Through-My-War-Anzio/dp/0807126365/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550977&sr=1-1
13. **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 (A few are available on Amazon.com) http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1

14. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1
15. **The Welcome Swede** by Frank Diggs. Publisher: Vantage Press, New York, NY (\$11.00) http://www.amazon.com/Welcome-Swede-Thousands-Germanys-Prisoners/dp/0533078180/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551448&sr=1-1
16. **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) http://www.amazon.com/Months-POW-Stalag-Luft-III/dp/1555915361/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551497&sr=1-1
17. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya and Martin Jones from Oflag 64 and Oscar Richard from Stalag I. Publisher: BookSurge Publishing (2/22/08). \$17.99 from Amazon.com, 1-800-201-7575 http://www.amazon.com/Tours-Duty-Veterans-Personal-Stories/dp/141968728X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551561&sr=1-1

Other Publications

NEW INFORMATION: The publications listed immediately below are out of print but the online versions can now be accessed by logging onto our website at www.oflag64.org. Click on the Looking for Lost Men link at the lower left of the Database page to find the rosters (in a large pdf file, several pages long).

Hammelburg Roster
My Grand Tour of Russia
Original Roster-Oflag 64
The Men of Oflag 64
The Oflag 64 Directory
Tribute to TF Baum

POW Database
Archives/POW Stories/Escape To Russia
POW Database
POW Database
POW Database
Archives/POW Stories/All Those Brave Young Men

WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

My Tour of Russia by Herb Garris, P. O. Box 1693, Pinehurst NC 28370-1693

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

Vic Kanners Diary. - NO CHARGE (Will be arranging for a new contact person ASAP)

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. Please contact:

Lynne Meltesen
 12163 West Exposition Drive
 Lakewood CO 80228-3300
 Phone: 303-987-1833
 Email: meltelee@q.com

The Waters Story. Contact Pat Waters, 412 Rice Hope Drive, Mt. Pleasant SC 29464-9273

A **1947 Oflag 64 Reunion Photo** is available for a \$5 donation to the Postage Fund. Send your donation and request to Elodie Caldwell.

TAPS

Errol P. Johnson

1919 – 2009



Errol Paul Johnson II, 89, New Haven, died Thursday, July 2, 2009, at Sunrise Manor Nursing Home, Hodgenville.

He was born Nov. 19, 1919, in New Haven to the late Patrick Dean and Rose Ellen

Roberts Johnson. He was a member of St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church, New Haven. He was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in World War II and a prisoner of war. He was owner and manager of Sherwood Inn with his wife for many years, former mayor of New Haven and fire chief.



He was preceded in death by two brothers, Patrick Dean "P.D." Johnson and Clarence Johnson; and a sister, Ann Johnson Dawson.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Cecilia Marie Boone Johnson, New Haven; four sons, Mark Johnson and Mike Johnson, New Haven, Kenny Johnson, Bardstown, and Dennis Johnson, Lexington; two daughters, Betty Errol Conkling, Louisville, and Mary Ann "Annie" Fox, Harlan; his twin sister, Betty Dorsey, Loretto Mother House, Nerinx; 20 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The Mass of Christian burial is 11 a.m. Monday at St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church with the reverends Mark Keene, Mark Hamilton, Mike Tobin and Ken Fortner officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery with full military rites.

Visitation is 2-8 p.m. today at William R. Rust Funeral Home, New Haven, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. in the funeral home chapel; and 9 a.m. until time of service Monday. Donations may be made to Sunrise Manor Nursing Home in memory of Errol Johnson, 80 Phillips Lane, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or St. Catherine School Fund, 413 First St., New Haven, KY 40051.

William R. Rust Funeral Home, New Haven, was in charge of arrangements.

Errol Johnson's obituaries were printed in the Kentucky Standard, The Courier-Journal, and the Lexington Herald-Leader on 7/4/09

Robert M. Langley "Bob"

1919 - 2009

Bob, a native of Alabama, was born in Camp Hill near Auburn, graduated from high school in Alexander City, and received a degree in chemical engineering from Auburn University in the class of 1941. He was a prisoner of war in World War II. Captured in North Africa in February 1943, he escaped from a German prison camp in Poland in February 1945. He remained in the Army Reserves, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janis Warren Langley, in December 2005.



He is survived by his sons, Warren and wife Ann Tonkin Langley, and Michael and wife Evelyn; granddaughters, Anne Langley and Kasey Langley and husband Nathan Grothe; and great-grandchildren, Jonathan Langley Grothe and Eleanor Langley Grothe.

Bob and Janis lived in Huntsville for over 50 years and enjoyed their many friends from Bob's work at Thiokol Chemical Corp. and Janis' active engagement in the community and the Episcopal Church. He lived in Redstone Village, a retirement community in Huntsville, after Janis' death and appreciated the love and support that the Redstone community gave to him and his dog, Lilly Belle. We especially remember Mr. Bob, as Janis called him, and Dink, as his sons and granddaughters called him, for his wry sense of humor, steadfastness, sense of fairness, and commitment to a high standard of values, and the love he received and gave to us, his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and his friends. We will all miss him.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory can be made to the Greater Huntsville Humane Society, 2812 Johnson Road, Huntsville, AL 35805, or the charity of your choice.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 18 at Ridley Hall, Church of the

Nativity Episcopal, 208 Eustis Ave. S.E., Huntsville, AL 35801. Laughlin Service Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Published in The Huntsville Times on 5/3/2009

Enoch L. Northcutt, Jr.

1921 - 2009



NORTHCUTT, ENOCH L. JR., 87 years, died Friday July 17, 2009 after a brief hospitalization for a hip fracture sustained in a fall at his home in Demopolis, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Lloyd Northcutt, his parents Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Northcutt, and five of his siblings: Walter G. Northcutt, Leona N. Harper, Mildred N. Nutter, Barbara N. Guyton, and William B. Northcutt. He is survived by three children: Kathryn N Cunningham (Billy) of Josephine AL, John E. Northcutt (Nancy) and Angela N. Holifield (her late husband, Dr. Reese Holifield), of Demopolis and brother, James N. Northcutt of Gadsden, AL. Mr. Northcutt was born August 9, 1921 in Evergreen, Alabama. He served in the US Army in Europe as an infantry officer in US Army service with the 28th Infantry Division, remarkable for receipt of two purple hearts and being a POW at Oflag 64 in Poland. He, with three others, made an escape via the Black Sea, Egypt, Italy, and back to Great Britain. Most important to him from his WWII years was his war bride of 61 years, Mary from Wales. He was a graduate of Bessemer High School, Birmingham Southern College and the University of Alabama School of Law. He retired from Vanity Fair after 35 years having served as plant manager in Butler, Jackson and Demopolis. He was active in the Demopolis Rotary Club where he was Director of its Crippled Children's Golf Tournament and recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship Award, served as Senior Warden of Trinity Episcopal Church, and served on the Demopolis City School Board. He was remembered as quite an accomplished fast-pitch softball pitcher in games with KA fraternity to local Demopolis leagues. Golf, fishing, reading and listening to big band music were important pastimes. He is also survived by eight granddaughters: Elizabeth C. Thomas (Shawn) of Missoula, Mt., Anne C.



Compton (Carleton) of Tampa, FL, Mary Kathryn Cunningham of Josephine, AL, Jennifer N. Bedsole (Mark), Mary L. Northcutt, Brittany L. Northcutt, Ashleigh E. Holifield and Emily K. Holifield, all of Demopolis, AL; three great grandchildren, John David and Thomas Bedsole of Demopolis, AL and Kathryn Mitchell Compton of Tampa, FL. Pallbearers will be his nephews: Roy Harper, Jr., Jeff Nutter, Jack Nutter, Ben Northcutt, Eric Northcutt, Russ Guyton, Reid Northcutt, Harrison Northcutt, David Northcutt and Glenn Northcutt. The family will receive friends at his home for nearly 50 years at 410 Rembert Street, Demopolis, AL Monday, July 20, 2009 between 5 and 8 p.m.. Funeral services will be at Trinity Episcopal Church, Demopolis Tuesday July 21, 2009 at 11 a.m. with interment following the service at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Prairieville, Ala. The family wishes to thank the staff at Byran Whitfield Memorial Hospital and Helping Hands of Alabama for supportive care. Memorials may be directed to Trinity Episcopal Church or St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Preservation Fund, PO Box 560, Demopolis, Alabama 36732 or a memorial of choice

Published in The Birmingham News, the Press-Register, the Tuscaloosa News, and the Montgomery Advertiser on 7/19/2009



An Oflag 64 POW Burial at Arlington National Cemetery

5/7/09 - I was honored to attend Nick Rahal's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery yesterday. As are all funerals there, it was so respectful, beautiful and moving. One thing I have never seen before, and was not present at my dad's funeral, was a soldier holding a black POW flag. This soldier followed Nick's caisson the whole way on the procession, and was never far from his casket as it was moved to the burial site and then during the service- it was quite moving. Gail, Nick's wife, said she had not requested it, but I think we all got a lump in our throats when we first saw it.



(Submitted by Anne Kreutzer, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel R. Hoskot)

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More Mail Call

KAREN ROSSI from Panama City Beach FL (great niece of the late Thomas D Drake) recently found our website and is asking for information about her great uncle. If you have information to share, please contact Karen by email at may202000@comcast.net or by phone

at 850-230-6565. *Thanks, Karen, for contacting us, and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. You will find our members very ready and willing to share information. We would love to see you at an Oflag 64 reunion in the future. Please let us hear from you again.*