

Post Oflag 64 Item

2009 – Spring

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2009 Reunion Hostess

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2009 Oflag 64 Reunion Fort Collins, Colorado September 17-20

Now is the time to mark your calendars and reserve dates for the Oflag 64 Reunion at Fort Collins Colorado hosted by Julie Gionfriddo, daughter of Jack Rathbone. Great plans are already underway and we look forward to another wonderful event!

Please read through Julie's letter, on page 2 of this ITEM, for details. Also take a moment to fill out and send back the "2009 Reunion Survey" found on page 4. (Julie's address is included on both pages and is also at the left of this page.) This will give us an idea of who will be planning to attend and how to organize. Thank you in advance for providing the needed information.

Much appreciation goes to Julie for agreeing to host this year's reunion. If you are able to assist her in any aspect of the event, she would be pleased to have your help. Please contact her using the contact information in this ITEM. We also appreciate Carole Lester (Herm Littman's daughter) and Caroline Fenton (Otho Williams' daughter) for volunteering to host future reunions in Dallas and San Diego.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Best Regards,

Elodie Caldwell (daughter of Reid Ellsworth)



A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

2009 Oflag 64 Reunion – Fort Collins, Colorado

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

The 2009 annual Oflag 64 Reunion will be held at Fort Collins, Colorado on September 17th through the 20th. Fort Collins is a beautiful college town (home of Colorado State University) located 60 miles north of Denver. It is nestled up against the foothills and has great mountain views, parks and open spaces. The climate is mild and has over 300 days of sunshine per year. September is beautiful in northern Colorado with cool nights and warm days (in the 70s), although a bit of snow is not unheard of.



Fort Collins is easily accessible as there is a direct shuttle from the Denver airport to the hotel and back. It has a reasonable price tag and the company is offering us discounts. If you decide to stay to do a bit of touring on your own, you can rent a car and see the Rockies. On Saturday the 19th there will be a bus tour of Rocky Mountain National Park which is located 45 minutes west of Fort Collins. On the tour you will see beautiful lakes, wildlife (possibly deer, elk and big horned sheep) and of course mountains. Trail Ridge road, the highest continuous highway in the world will provide us with breathtaking views of the high peaks such as Long's Peak and the Mummy Range.

Also planned is a Friday trip around the city which will include the University and the World War II memorial, and a stop for shopping in "Old Town" which is the original center of Fort Collins. Many of the original buildings are still present, several of which have been converted into quaint shops, micro-breweries and art galleries. Fat Tire beer is made here in Fort Collins!



As entertainment one evening we will have a great speaker, Dr. Thomas Sutherland (whose biography follows on the next page). He was one of my professors at CSU when I attended and, although he has retired from the lecture tour, is making an exception for us!

The Hilton Garden Inn is our host hotel and it is new, and light and airy. The hotel staff and those of the City of Fort Collins are very excited about our reunion and are eager to make us comfortable and happy. The hotel is a 100% smoke-free facility and is offering great room rates (\$93+tax/night)...and we get all the meeting rooms and the hospitality room free. We do however have to have a good turn-out so please sign up and register at the hotel early and bring all of your families!



I look forward to seeing you in September. Please contact me if you have questions.



Sincerely,
Julie Gionfriddo
15317 Red Canyon Ranch Dr
Loveland CO 80538-9184
Juliet.Gionfriddo@ColoState.EDU

Dr. Thomas M. Sutherland

MS 1956, PhD 1958, Animal Breeding and Genetics
Fort Collins, Colorado



Dr. Tom Sutherland has devoted an entire career to education, with service to thousands of students and advisees. His research and teaching in the area of animal genetics has gained him international acclaim. He went to Beirut, and remained there, despite threats, to complete the mission he had undertaken as Dean of Agriculture at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, to further agricultural education in the Middle East.

On June 9th of 1985, Tom was taken hostage by the Islamic Jihad in Beirut. For six and a half years he was held captive, sharing a cell with Terry Anderson, a fellow Iowa Stater. This was the second longest period of time any Western hostage had ever been held hostage and his years of captivity provided him a unique perspective concerning the other side. With his wife, Jean, he authored a book, *At Your Own Risk: An American Chronicle of Crisis and Captivity in the Middle East*.

Since his release in 1991, he has held the position of Professor Emeritus at CSU and has done professional speaking and consulting in international affairs and consulting. He has given thousands of motivational and inspirational presentations to schools, colleges, churches, corporations, companies, and clubs. Scholarships in his name have been established at Iowa State, American University of Beirut, and Colorado State. At Iowa State, his lead gift established a Jay L. Lush Endowed Chair in Genomics.

A native of Scotland, Tom holds degrees from Glasgow University and Iowa State University. He has earned many honors and teaching awards during his distinguished career. He and his wife Jean have three grown daughters.

2009 Oflag 64 Reunion
Fort Collins, Colorado
September 17 - September 20

To help us plan the next reunion, please let us know if you think you will be attending and list how many people might attend with you. Help make the 2009 Oflag 64 Reunion successful by inviting family members and friends to attend as well. This is not a commitment on your part; it is just to give us a ballpark figure. Please fill out the form below and send it to me as soon as possible.

Detach below and send to:

Julie Gionfriddo
15317 Red Canyon Ranch Dr
Loveland CO 80538-9184
Juliet.Gionfriddo@ColoState.EDU

Hilton Garden Inn Fort Collins
2821 East Harmony Road
Fort Collins CO 80528
1-970-225-2900
<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=FNLFCGI>

2009 Reunion Survey

Ft. Collins Colorado Reunion
Thursday, September 17 – Sunday, September 20



Hilton Garden Inn Fort Collins
2821 East Harmony Road
Fort Collins CO 80528
1-970-225-2900
<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=FNLFCGI>

___ Yes, I hope to attend the 2009 Reunion

Name _____

___ I plan to invite (how many?) _____ family members and/or guests.

___ No, I am unable to attend.

Name _____





MAIL CALL



ELEANOR BERTRAND from **Baton Rouge LA** (Friend of Oflag 64 and part of the Military Historical Tours group) would like to know if members of Oflag 64 would be interested in the

“Americans In Enemy Hands Tour” this year. Typically, they visit places in Europe where POWs were held during WWII. If you would like to participate in this tour, more detailed information can be obtained from:

Military Historical Tours
Email: mht@miltours.com

Ph: 703-212-0695 Fax: 703-212-8567

Thanks, Ellie, for extending another invitation to our members to participate in this tour. We know it has been greatly enjoyed in the past. Please keep us posted as new information becomes available.

LT. GEN A. P. CLARK from **Colorado Springs** sent a donation to the Postage Fund recently. *Thank you very much, General, for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. It's wonderful to have such supportive Oflag 64 family members. Hope all is well with you and that you'll keep in touch.*

BILL CORY from **Naples FL** sent compliments on the ITEM along with a short history of his tunnel involvement which he asked be sent to Kathy Robinson Stevenson. Kathy is the daughter of Hervey Robinson who passed away on Thanksgiving (see his obituary in the TAPS section.) Hervey was also part of the tunnel project. *Thanks, Bill, for your kind words and for the history of your tunnel project. As requested, it has been sent to Kathy Stevenson who will be contacting you soon. Thanks also for your suggestion to put photos of our living Kriegies in the ITEM. What a grand idea! See the Information Station for names and faces. Please keep in touch.*



CHOLLA COVERT from **Omak WA** (wife of Richard W. Covert) recently wrote with a question about Oflag 64 escape movies. Other

than the documentary by Robert Galloway and the upcoming documentary about the MIS-X project, we are unaware of a current escape movie about Oflag 64 POWs. If anyone has knowledge of a movie about our POWs escaping to Russia, please pass the word along to us. *Thanks, Cholla, for writing and asking about an escape movie. If there's been one made, we'll find out soon. Hope all is well with you and your husband and that we'll hear from you again.*

JOHN DIMLING, III from **Winston-Salem NC** (son of John N. Dimling, Jr.) recently found our website and wrote: “I am the son of John Nicholas Dimling Jr. He is still alive and well and lives in Winston-Salem, NC with my mother. He and two others escaped into Russia before the "long march". Please keep me informed about Oflag 64 and its history.” *Thanks for writing, John. We're happy you have found us and hope you'll visit our website often. Much of the information you may be looking for can be found there. We also have a wonderful Oflag 64 family, always supportive and helpful. We hope you'll consider attending this year's reunion and that your dad might attend with you. We hope you'll write again.*

CAROLINE FENTON from **Escondido CA** (daughter of the late Otho R. Williams) sent an email asking about contacting Nancy Zelenack, daughter of George and Sally Millett, who also lives in Escondido. Additionally, she wrote: “I am also excited to see that the next reunion will be held in Colorado - I mentioned it to my hubby and because he is a fly fisherman and because I have a cousin in Manitou Springs (near Colorado Springs), well... you might as well put us down as a "yes".” *Caroline, it was good to hear from you again. Looking forward to hearing more about your communications with Nancy Zelenack and also to seeing you in Colorado in the Fall. Please write again.*

HERB GARRIS from **Pinehurst NC** sent a nice letter a while back with updates on his activities. He wrote: “Bob Levin, Ed Batte, Glenn Brooks and I are all well and have devoted lots of time

to a nice program which our Chapter of AMEXPOW in Fayetteville devotes to the Special Forces serving as a group of three to each class of their 19-day school as a part of a Ranger Program. We answer questions they may ask on what we went through as POWs. The Special Forces School is located at Fort Bragg and classes are close to 100 now." In a subsequent letter, Herb sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with an obituary and tribute to Carl Bedient (See the TAPS Section). *"Thanks again, Herb, for writing and for your updates. What a wonderful service you're performing for a very deserving group of people. And how appreciative they must be of your willingness to continue to serve your country as you devote time to their program. Thanks also for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund as well as the information on Carl. We hope you'll keep us posted from time to time on your activities.*

VERNON GOODRICH from Azle TX (brother-in-law of the late Richard H. Torrence, Jr.) is new to our organization, having recently found our website. He shared the following: "Thank you for the email on Oflag 64. Capt. Richard H. Torrence, Jr.- Commander H Co., 3rd Btl, 143rd. infantry (Texas 36th Division) was the brother of my wife Glenda Torrence Goodrich. He was wounded at Altavilla, Italy after his unit made a beach landing on 9-6-1943 at Salerno, Italy. His unit was taken POW by the Germans and he was sent to Oflag 64 in late Oct. 1943, He died on the morning of Jan. 10, 1944 at the POW camp. ...We have two books "Kriegsgefangener" by Clarence Ferguson with lots of info on Capt. Torrence and also pictures on page 155 and 156 of his funeral. I have the tape "Oflag 64" produced and shown on PBS. His death is talked about on the tape. I have a collection of POW covers, letters, and newspapers, etc. from Oflag 64, also all of Capt. Torrence's medals. Thanks again for your email." *Thanks so much, Vernon, for writing and for sharing information about your brother-in-law. We welcome you to our Oflag 64 family and hope you'll keep in touch.*

MICHAEL HIGGINS from Richmond Hill GA (son of the late Martin J. Higgins) emailed the following thoughts during the Christmas season: "As we approach the Christmas season I would like to share a thought with you - My father arrived at OFLAG 64 on Christmas Eve 1944. I

never knew why Christmas was so special a holiday for him other than the obvious religious importance instilled by his parents – devout Irish Catholics. It was not until I learned the circumstances surrounding his capture and the date of his arrival at OFLAG 64 that it all made such sense.

The media tells us on a regular basis that we are currently facing tough times. I submit that we are facing nothing compared to what the men of OFLAG 64 contended with, sixty-four years ago.

It is my profound hope that the sons and daughters of OFLAG 64 Kriegies will bring the ordeal of their fathers to mind to put the current situation in perspective as we go forward.

Material things meant nothing to my father. Like so many of his generation, he was a modest and unassuming man. He was generous to a fault.

May we always hold the sacrifice and suffering of our fathers near to our hearts." *Thanks so much, Michael, for sharing your thoughts and helping us remember to keep things in perspective. We appreciate the great sacrifices that those who serve make for our freedom. Please write again.*



JONEL HILL from Pasadena CA recently sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Jonel, for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Postage Fund. We so much appreciate your continued support and enjoy hearing from you. Please keep in touch.*

NATHAN JONAS (son of the late Lloyd C. Jonas) is a new member of the Oflag 64 organization and is hoping to find someone who remembers his father. He wrote: "I would be interested to hear if anyone knew him and/or if any pictures or documents exist that are not posted on the Oflag64 web site. I have an electronic copy of his Wartime Log if anyone is interested." In a subsequent email, Nathan mentioned that his dad was killed in an automobile accident in April of 1963. *Thanks, Nathan, for writing. We were sorry to learn of your father's death, but have sent an email query to those on our email list regarding your request. We hope you receive responses soon from those who may have known him. Please keep us posted.*

BILL JONES from Knoxville TN (son of the late William K. Jones) recently found our website and is looking for anyone who remembers his father. In his email he wrote: "My father was held a POW at Oflag 64 from approx. Nov-1943 until 20-Jan-1945. He was a US army ranger, wounded and captured at Faid Pass in Tunisia in Feb-1943. He passed away in 1994." If you are able to share memories with Bill, please write to him at: 1936 Hickory Glen Rd. Knoxville TN 37932-1952. He can be reached by phone at 865-690-1418. *Thanks, Bill, for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We know that you'll find the group to be thoughtful and caring. We hope you'll be able to make the connections you desire. Please write again.*

L. MARTIN JONES from Lawrence KS recently emailed: "Many thanks for sending notice of Bill Warthen's death. I never met Bill, but enjoyed exchanging email messages for several years....I was also a 2nd Lieutenant Infantry platoon leader in WWII and a POW in Germany. We were long-time Kiwanians, and have both been married for 63 years." *Thanks, Martin, for writing and sharing your "in commons". And congratulations on 63 years of marriage. Bill was a wonderful man and we'll miss him. Please write again soon.*

TIM KAISER from Stamford CT (nephew of the late Nick Rahal) recently wrote to say that his Uncle Nick had just passed away. He also said: "I am glad he was able to connect with you. It meant so much in his lifetime to be kept posted on the other Kriegies....The final draft of his book will be ready in a week or so. I suppose there is one more chapter to be written." **(Please see Nick's obituary in the TAPS section of this ITEM.)** *Thanks so much, Tim, for letting us know about the passing of Nick. We enjoyed meeting him and his wife, Gail, at the Oflag 64 Reunion last fall. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. We will miss him. Please keep us posted on the progress of his book.*



ANNE KREUTZER from Woodbridge VA (daughter of the late Nathaniel R. Hoskot, Sr.) sent compliments on the latest ITEM. *Thanks, Ann, for your kind words. It's definitely a joint effort. And thanks also to you and others who pass along information for the ITEM. Please keep in touch.*

DORDIE LAMPHIER (per William R. Hunker, son of the late Donald R. Hunker) recently found our website and shared the following information: "I wish to add the name of 1st Lt. Donald R. Hunker to your list as having died on Dec. 31, 1970, in San Francisco. His son, William R. Hunker recently found your website, and we are very excited that you have such a place to remember these brave men of Oflag 64. We intend to compile Lt. Hunker's story and send it to you when we complete it as far as we can. It is our hope that some of your members may remember him and help us find the missing pieces of the puzzle, as Lt. Hunker never shared his experiences with his family. All we have are the newspaper clippings and Telegrams notifying his family of his capture and his release before his subsequent return. *Thank you, Dordie and William, for writing and sharing information about Donald Hunker. And welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We look forward to more communications and information from you and hope you'll enjoy being a part of our Oflag 64 family. Please write again.*

LANA FARBER LE VINE (daughter of the late Leo J. Farber pictured as "Queenie" below) recently found our website and wrote: "My father, Leo J. Farber, was a part of the 1st Armored Division that was ambushed by the Afrika Corps during the Battle for Kasserine Pass. He was captured and eventually imprisoned at Oflag 64 in Poland. My father rarely spoke of being a prisoner, and when he did, he focused on the "good" he experienced. Those "good" experiences were playing softball and his debut as a burlesque strip tease "Queenie" during the August 1944 anniversary festivities.



My father made the Army his career and saw combat in Korea and Vietnam before retiring. Sadly he passed away on April 19, 1975. However, he didn't leave without instilling in his children (all five of us!) the unquestionable love and faith he had for his country. His motto, whenever we said "I can't, Daddy", was..."What's the last four letters of the word American.... I can!" That saying, I believe, enabled him to endure any adversity he faced...it is a saying my daughter grew to learn, and one which will be passed on to my grandson!" *Thanks, Lana, for writing and sharing*

information about your father. We're happy to welcome you to our Oflag 64 family. You'll find many who are able to answer questions you might have regarding your father's POW days. Please write again anytime.

ROYAL LEE from Mankato MN sent the following email: "The 2008 Oflag 64 Reunion Report had information on MIS-X and those involved sworn to secrecy. I have copies of two certificates I signed, one in France on May 8, 1945 and one at Camp Shanks, New York on May 30, 1945. I signed another one at Hot Springs, Arkansas the first of August 1945 but I did not get a copy of that one. After the book, THE ESCAPE FACTORY, was published, Col. John Van Vliet was of the opinion that inasmuch as some of us were named in the book, it negated our obligation to not reveal any of the information in the book. If anyone would be interested in the forms we signed, I would be happy to have copies made and send to them. I visited with Nils Cowan about this about 6 months ago." (Please see copies of Royal's certificates in the Information Station section of this ITEM.) *Thanks, Royal, for sharing this information with our group. A very interesting experience for all involved and one we look forward to learning more about in the near future. Let us hear from you again soon.*



MAUREEN LINKOVICH from Winsted CT (daughter of the late Patrick Quinn of Task Force Baum) sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with compliments on the ITEM. She commented on how inspired she and her husband were by the men of OFLAG 64 and their families. She said: "We're grateful for the opportunity to have attended the reunion." *Thanks so much, Maureen, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund and for your kind words about the ITEM. Both are much appreciated. We hope to see you at future reunions if possible. Please write again.*

ANNE MATZELLE from Sugar Land TX (daughter of James Cockrell) recently sent a copy of her dad's memoirs. She wrote: "We have moved my father and mother from St. George, Utah, to Sugar Land, Texas....He is the unidentified soldier on page 84 of James Bickers' Oflag 64 book." *Thanks, Anne, for the information on your father and for the copy of his*

memoirs. We will post a copy to the website as soon as we're able. Please keep in touch. (NOTE: We have just been notified of James Cockrell's death. Please see the TAPS section for more information.)

MARGARET SPENCE MCCLONE from Alton MO (daughter of the late Leonard W. Spence) found our website not long ago and is interested in hearing from anyone who remembers her dad. In an email, she mentioned: "He escaped when they were on the long cold march. There were two other men that escaped with him. They walked across Poland and he caught a ship out of Russia. One of the men that I think he escaped with was Wallace E. Graves from Fort Worth." In a separate communication Margaret shared the following: "Amon Carter, Sr. had sent some maps in through the Red Cross in secret and one of the other men with Dad had them. The other man wanted to bury them as they killed you if you were caught with the maps. But Dad told him, 'Give them to me as they will kill me if they catch me anyway.' So that is probably why they managed to get to Russia and not wander around." *Thanks, Margaret, for emailing and for sharing information about your dad. And welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We have a great group of Kriegies and families, all so very willing to share information. We hope you're able to make contact with others in our organization. Please keep us updated as time goes by.*

ROBERT O'NEILL from Prescott AZ sent a donation recently to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Bob, for your thoughtful and generous donation to the Postage Fund. And thanks so much for your continued support. Please keep in touch.*



ROCCO PRAVIDICA from Rockford IL recently sent a short note along with a donation to the Postage Fund. Rocco and his wife Lois weren't able to attend the DC Reunion because they were in the process of moving across town. He wrote: "Enjoy the Oflag ITEM, keep sending." *Thanks, Rocco, for updating us on your new address and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We hope all went well with your move and that you're doing well. Thanks also for the photo. Hope to hear from you again.*

NICK AND GAIL RAHAL from Oakville CT sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a short note and compliments on the ITEM. They wrote: "Thank you very much for sending us ROADS TO LIBERATION



FROM OFLAG 64. Nick has almost completed his own book THE LIFE OF NICK RAHAL, EX-POW – WWII. We are still editing it and have arranged for it to be published soon by Borders." *Thanks, Nick and Gail, for writing and for sending compliments on the ITEM. We also appreciate your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. Looking forward to hearing more about the book and to future communications. (NOTE: We have just been notified of Nick's death. Please see the TAPS section for his obituary.)*

GEORGE AND ARLENE ROSENTHAL from Oldsmar FL recently wrote: "George and I are



so sorry but we won't be able to attend the reunion in Ft. Collins this year. The date falls right in the middle of our High Holy Days

(Rosh HaShanah) which will include two days of the reunion. I'm sure you know how much we wanted to be with everyone. We've made such wonderful friends these last years with our Oflag family. We wish you a successful reunion and hope we will be with you next year. *Thanks, George and Arlene, for letting us know that you won't be able to attend the reunion this year. How missed you'll be, but we know that Rosh HaShanah is important as well. Looking forward to seeing you in future years. Please write again.*

SKIP SLACK from Leesburg VA (great nephew of the late John F. Slack) recently found our website and wrote: "I am the son of Chuck Slack, who was the nephew of Jack Slack (John F. Slack, listed under Taps for 2002 and received a bronze star while at OFLAG 64.) I'm not sure how many of the men were awarded bronze stars that were at OFLAG 64 or if it was awarded for the march and such. It would be great if I could find out more info, so I could pass it along to Uncle Jack's daughters, Linda and Margie (my cousins). Thanks, and I look forward to more info." *Thanks, Skip, for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We have sent*

an email query to our email list and hope you receive the information you're looking for soon. Keep us posted.

BEL SMITH from San Rafael CA (widow of Matthew C. Smith) sent a copy of a tribute to her late husband written by her. It was submitted and accepted by TAPS and the Association of Graduates at West Point, NY. She said: "It took me a long time to write it, and I was pleased when they accepted it. They have very strict guidelines.....He survived 27 months at Oflag 64." *Thanks, Bel, for writing, for sending the tribute, and for being patient with us as we've updated our mailing list. Your name has been re-added to our list and you will be receiving the ITEMS once again. Our best to you. Please write again.*

KATHY STEVENSON from Fernandina Beach FL (daughter of the late Hervey H. Robinson) recently wrote: "Just a brief note to let you know that my father passed away on Thanksgiving morning. (See his obituary in the TAPS section of this ITEM.) We have so many things to be thankful for. Dad had great health all through his life up until this past Spring when he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and spent several months in the hospital and rehabilitation. He returned to the home we all grew up in (early September) and up until a week ago was doing so well." In a subsequent mailing, Kathy sent a donation to the Postage Fund in memory of her father. *Kathy, we were so sorry to hear of your father's passing. We mourn the loss of another great man and hero and send heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathies to you and your family. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you also for the thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund in memory of your father. It is very much appreciated. We hope you'll keep in touch.*

BEVERLY TURNBO from Salado TX (widow of Charlie Turnbo) recently wrote: "Thank you so much for your sweet note to my daughter and your kindness in posting my husband's obituary in your next newsletter. I also appreciate you



others for encouraging notes and letters to me and our family. I did want to let you know that our address has changed (from Ashley Court to another address in Salado), so we now use P.O. Box 1319, Salado Texas 76571 as our mailing

address. Since we moved a year ago this month, the post office likely will not forward mail sent to Ashley Court.” (Beverly can also be contacted at: baturnbo@aol.com) *Thanks so much, Beverly, for writing and for updating us on your address. We were so sorry to learn of Charlie’s death. He will be truly missed. We offer our thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Please let us know how you’re doing as time goes by.*



JANICE TURNER from Meridian TX (daughter of Jim Betts) writes: “The Oflag website still amazes me and still provides incredible connections. My dad, Jim Betts, has wondered about James

Granberry for years. I have tried to track him down locally, since he was from a town not too far from where we live now. James and my Dad were friends. And James and my mother’s family were friends as well from the same small Texas town. Would you please share my contact information with Karen Granberry Smith. I know my dad would love to make contact with her, and I would as well. Thanks again for all your hard work!” In a subsequent email, Janice wrote: “Karen called me this morning. We had a good visit and made plans for a visit with my Dad. This is exciting. I hope you realize all of the wonderful things that have happened as a result of all your hard work!!! Thanks again from my family. We appreciate you so much!” *Janice, thanks for writing and for your kind words. They’re much appreciated. It’s wonderful to hear when connections are made. We hope that you and Karen Smith had an enjoyable visit. Keep in touch and let us know how things are going.*

JANA VAN DYCK from Montrose CA (daughter of the late Max R. Medema) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. She wrote regarding her dad: “He escaped from Oflag 64 with 2 other men. I typed the story I heard on the website somewhere....I’m hoping someone else might remember the story.” (For anyone without email who may remember Max Medema, please contact Elodie using the contact information on the front page of this ITEM.) *Welcome, Jana, to our Oflag 64 family and thanks for writing. We’re so happy that you have found us and hope that you’ll hear soon from anyone who may have known your dad. Please keep in touch.*

DARWYN WALKER from Springfield MO sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks so much, Darwyn, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. Your support is greatly appreciated. We hope to hear from you again soon.*



EDWIN “ED” WARD from Alachua FL (son of the late Edwin O. Ward and brother of Janie Ward Richardson, another member of our Oflag 64 Family) recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He shared the following information: “My father was in OFLAG 64. His name was Edwin O. Ward. He was a 2nd Lt., captured in North Africa on February 17th, 1943 fighting under Patton’s 3rd Army, 1st Infantry division. He, along with several others escaped on the second day of the Long March in January, 1945. His group made their way to Odessa, Russia and came home eventually on an American Ship into Boston....He never mentioned anything about it after the day he got home. He died in November, 1975. My mother died about 10 years later.” In a later email, Ed asked about a recording of original Oflag 64 voices, which included his dad’s voice. Bob Thompson has responded that he has several voice recording CDs and will send one to Ed. *Thanks for writing, Ed. We’re happy you have found us and hope you’ll continue to correspond. We have a very warm and friendly group, always eager to share information. Please keep in touch.*



JAMES YAMAZAKI from White Salmon WA sent the following electronic holiday greetings: “It’s been a record breaking winter here. For over a week we had sub 20 degree temperatures with snow falling almost daily. While that may not impress our northern friends who see sub zero temps, we know all you southern California folks will be. I’m hoping I’ll be able to golf when the spring arrives. I had a little kitchen slip and had a double compression fracture of the spine. I have remained mobile and the pain has decreased steadily.” *Thanks, James, for your holiday greetings. We were sorry to hear about your fall but hope your recovery continues to go well and that you’ll be able to golf as you wish when Spring arrives. Please write again.*

INFORMATION STATION

Bill Cory from Naples, FL recently wrote that he thought more of our Kriegies would be interested in contacting each other if they knew who was living and where they lived. A recent count of Kriegies on our mailing list shows approximately 150 still living. (Perhaps there are more, perhaps there are less.) If you would like to contact any of these Kriegies, please email me at either of the contact addresses on the first page of this ITEM. Names and addresses are available upon request. For your information, there are:

6 from Alabama	2 from Nebraska
2 from Arizona	2 from Nevada
1 from Arkansas	1 from New Hampshire
6 from California	5 from New Jersey
3 from Colorado	4 from New York
1 from Connecticut	9 from North Carolina
8 from Florida	7 from Ohio
3 from Georgia	2 from Oklahoma
6 from Illinois	3 from Oregon
3 from Indiana	9 from Pennsylvania
1 from Iowa	2 from Rhode Island
2 from Kansas	1 from South Carolina
4 from Kentucky	1 from Tennessee
1 from Maine	15 from Texas
3 from Maryland	1 from Utah
2 from Massachusetts	6 from Virginia
2 from Michigan	2 from Washington DC
6 from Minnesota	7 from Washington
3 from Mississippi	3 from Wisconsin
1 from Missouri	1 from Wyoming

Also, it might help jog memories to be able to see pictures, so if you could send me both a “now” and “then” picture of you, I’ll include them in the ITEM as time goes by. If you are able to send pictures by email, that would be great. If you send them by US Mail, I will scan and return them to you ASAP.

In my files, I have the following “**THEN**” pictures of both living and deceased Kriegies: Jerry Alexis, Jim Betts, Thomas Bugg, Sam Carlick, Amon Carter, George Cobb, Bill Corbin, James K. Davis, “Doc” DiFrancesco, Reid Ellsworth, Franklin Garrett, Paul Goode, Chris Heisler, Jonel Hill, Herndon Inge, Jerome Jacobs, Lloyd Martin Jones, George Juskalian, Victor Kanners, Lloyd LeClair, James MacIsaac, George Millett, Sally Millett, Lawrence Naab, Robert Rivers, Chesley Russell, Bill Shular, Roger Teyssier, Doyle Yardley

....and the following **POW ID** card pictures: Brad Bradford, Gene Liggett, Bill Shular

....and Forty-three “**NOW**” pictures seen on the next page. (Quite a handsome bunch!!!)

Thanks so much for your help. Elodie



William Barnum III



Joe Barrett



Abe Baum



Jim Betts



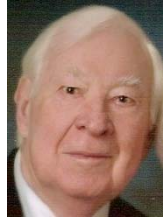
Bud Bolling



Brad Bradford



Tommy Bugg



Jim Bickers



Roy Chappell



Bill Corbin



Bill Cory



John Creech



"Doc"
Di Francesco



Alan
Dunbar



Ed Graf



Don Graul



Chris Heisler



Carroll
Higginbotham



Jonel Hill



Curtis Jones



George
Juskalian



Jimmie
Kanaya



Gene Liggett



Herm Littman



Bob Moorhead



George
Myron



Edor Nelson



Boyce
Nunnally



Bob
O'Neill



Dick
Parker



Rocco
Pravidica



Ted Rinehart



Bob Rivers



George
Rosenthal



Joe
Seringer



Bill
Sharpe



Bill Shular



Sid Thal



Bob
Thompson



Darwyn
Walker



James
Yamazaki



Joseph
Zelazny



Orpha
Ziegler

National Geographic's Focus on POWs and MIS-X

The National Geographic film is really ramping up in the edit room now. We have finished all principal filming, which included interviews with Oflag-64 POWs Joe Seringer and Wilbur Sharpe, and 4 days of dramatic reenactments filmed at Fort MacArthur Military Park in San Pedro, CA last week. Tomorrow evening I leave for Poland, where we will shoot for one day at Oflag-64 and Szubin, as well as two days at Stalag Luft III and Zagan.

We are due to have an initial rough cut completed by February 20th or so, and the show will deliver completely in late March for a mid to late April air date. I can give a more specific update on that air date as it gets closer.

I look forward to giving you more updates about this fascinating, if slow to develop film project.

Thanks!

Nils

Nils R. Cowan
Producer
Heninger Productions
2601-A Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201



Joe Seringer is ready for the camera in Wooster OH



Joe Seringer is interviewed by Nils Cowan in Wooster OH

Photos Courtesy
of Nils Cowan
Heninger Productions

Two certificates signed by Royal Lee in reference to the
super secret MIS-X Project
(submitted by Royal Lee)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that I have read and fully understand all the provisions of War Department letter, Subject: Publicity in Connection with Escaped Liberated, or Repatriated Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries, and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that disclosure to unauthorized persons will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that it is my duty during my military service, and later as a civilian, to take all possible precautions to prevent disclosure, by word of mouth or otherwise, of military information of this nature.

Name (Print) ROYAL I LEE Signed Royal I Lee
Rank 1st LT A.S.N. 402004 DATED MAY 30 '45 PLACE CAMP STANB, N. Y.
Unit 109th ENIG BNC 34 DIV Witness [Signature]

RESTRICTED

Certificate

I certify that I have read and fully understand all the provisions of the Directive of the Secretary of War AG 383.6 (24 March 45) OB-S-B-M, 29 March 1945), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that disclosure to unauthorized persons will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that it is my duty during my military service, and later as a civilian, to take all possible precautions to prevent disclosure, by word of mouth or otherwise, of military information of this nature.

Name (Print) ROYAL I. LEE Signed Royal I. Lee
Rank 1st LT A.S.N. 402004 Dated 8 May 45 Place CAMP E
Unit 109th ENIG BNC 34 DIV Witness [Signature]

Incl. 1

RESTRICTED

A-45-150 M - 77-288

Interesting WWII Story

Submitted separately by John Paull, Gene Liggett, and Anne Matzelle

The following WWII story has been circulating for a while and has similarities to the MIS-X project that we have been learning about. In an effort to verify this story, we have checked with Snopes.com but haven't been able to confirm it one way or the other. Additionally, we have been in contact with Brandon Bies of the National Park Service who has been researching MIS-X and PO Box 1142 and said: "I cannot refute that story, and believe it is likely true. It has circulated on email chains quite a bit over the last year, and I've probably run across it a half dozen times. That being said, it is my gut that some of the information in the article has been stretched a bit. For example, at the end, where it states this was only declassified in 2007 – I find this rather doubtful and feel that date should be much earlier. But this is only my opinion. The "Fort Hunt" escape devices, like baseballs, playing cards, cribbage boards, etc, all became common knowledge in the early 1990's. I'm also not so sure about the statistic that 1/3 of escapes utilized the Monopoly games. That seems awful high." That all being said, I think you could take it perhaps with a grain of salt and understand that it may be slightly sensationalized, but based on fact. Thanks. Brandon

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was looking for ways and means to facilitate their escape. Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where-stuff-was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses', where a POWs could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks: They make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear-out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's CIA) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified to be put into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross, to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located (Red Cross packages were delivered to prisoners in that same regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass,
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together.
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money! British and American air-crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set ----- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in The corner of the Free Parking square! Of the estimated 35,000 allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't de-classified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

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.

THANK
YOU!

First of all, I repeat what I said about the Post Oflag 64 ITEM – WOW! The “old” hands couldn’t do what you “new” hands are doing so nicely. Many thanks for continuing a wonderful newsletter. ~ **Bill Cory, Naples FL**

What a nice publication. ~ **Caroline Fenton, Escondido CA**

Thank you for the outstanding Winter issue of the Oflag 64 Item. We really appreciate all the work and effort involved in the publication of the Item. Even though our numbers are dwindling, we seem to pick up more “speed” with each issue. Please keep up the good work. ~ **Jimmie & Lynn Kanaya, Gig Harbor WA**

The new ITEM-FABULOUS!! The photos are so clear and it really is nice to put faces with names. You do such a wonderful job --- thank you so much. ~ **Anne Kreutzer, Woodbridge VA**

You do a fantastic job on the Item! Great bibliography. Thank you. ~ **Maureen Linkovich, Winsted CT**

Enjoy the Oflag ITEM, keep sending. I enjoy reading it – you are doing a fine job. ~ **Rocco Pravidica, Rockford IL**

The latest ITEM is terrific, you really do a wonderful job with it. ~ **Nick & Gail Rahal, Oakville CT**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

The Oflag website still amazes me and still provides incredible connections. ~ **Janice Turner, Meridian TX**

I do plan to read through the website, it appears to be very heavy on content, which is great. ~ **Skip Slack, Leesburg VA**

New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Larry W. Copes – Son of Kriegy James W. Copes
John N. Dimling III – Son of Kriegy John N. Dimling, Jr.
Vaughn Edsall – Distant Cousin of Kriegy Lester K. Edsall
Vernon Goodrich – Brother-in-law of Kriegy Richard H. Torrence
William Hunker – Son of Kriegy Donald R. Hunker
Nathan Jonas – Son of Kriegy Lloyd C. Jonas
Bill Jones – Son of Kriegy William K. Jones
Lana Farber Le Vine – Daughter of Kriegy Leo J. Farber
Olivia Oakes-Ebenstein – Granddaughter of Kriegy Walter M. Oakes
Jana Van Dyck – Daughter of Kriegy Max R. Medema
Edwin Ward – Son of Kriegy Edwin O. Ward
Floyd L. Vaden III – Son of Kriegy Floyd L. Vaden, Jr.
Lorrayne Zelazny –



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. Many are available through Amazon.com

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-Germans-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 top of the Database page or click on the Brave Young Men link on the POW Accounts page.

Original Roster-Oflag 64	Database
The Oflag 64 Directory	Database
The Men of Oflag 64	Database
Hammelburg Roster	Database
Tribute to TF Baum	POW Accounts

WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE CONTACTS BELOW FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A Grand Tour of Russia to Odessa, Winter ~ 1945 by Herb Garris, edited by Clarence Meltesen. Will soon be available on the Oflag 64 website.

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. 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. 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

Carl G. Bedient

1917-2007

Carl Gordon Bedient was born August 7, 1917, and died March 28, 2007. He was the second of seven children born to Harold and Myrtle Bedient, of Bradshaw, Nebraska. He attended elementary school in Arborville, Nebraska, and graduated from Polk, Nebraska High School. He got a Bachelor of Arts degree from York College in York, Nebraska. He taught English at Ravenna, Nebraska High School up until the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He answered his country's call and joined the Army and the newly-created 101st Airborne Division. His unit was captured by the Germans and he was a prisoner of war for 8 to 9 months. He and a few others escaped from the Germans somewhere in Poland and hiked, rode trains, hitchhiked and did whatever necessary to reach friendly country. He reunited with his military unit when the war in Europe was over.



He married his college sweetheart, Agnes Drake, before shipping off to the war in Europe. After the war, he returned to farming in Nebraska. Because his operation was fairly small, he hanged careers in 1956, first working for the Bureau of Reclamation for around a year, then working for the Social Security Administration until his retirement in 1982. Carl and Agnes divorced in 1978.

For 17 years Carl and Mary Arnold maintained a comfortable domestic partnership. In 1996 Carl met Mickey Barens here in Alamo Palms and enjoyed her company until her death in September 2004.

Carl played tennis until his stroke in 1990.

For years, Carl attended big band dances throughout the Midwest. January 16th of this year, he got to dance to the music of Jack Melick. A week later, on a cold, rainy night, Carl was dancing to the music of his son, Howard, in this very room. How were we to know that such a happy event would be his last dance?

Carl enjoyed his children and grandchildren and showed his love by chauffeuring them to their various activities as they grew. He went on campouts with each of his sons when they were in Boy Scouts. His daughter fondly remembers high school sporting events and Methodist Youth

Fellowship activities. In his retirement, he hosted swimming pool parties and ping-pong games along with many a dining-out on birthdays and special occasions.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Fred, and his sister, Rose Anderson. He is survived by his children, Carolyn (Tom) Nieland of Alamo, TX; Howard Bedient of Wichita KS; and Perry (Jo Anne) Bedient of Fort Myers FL; brother Marlin of Massachusetts; brother Owen of Bradshaw Nebraska; sister Dorothy Masters of York, Nebraska; brother Kent of York, Nebraska; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

(This obituary was submitted by Carolyn Nieland via Herb Garris. A tribute follows at the end of the TAPS section)

Frank J. Buchholz

1918-2006

We have just received word that Frank J. Buchholz passed away on February 27, 2006. No archived online obituary was available.



Dallas Cassell Hartford

1922-2008



Age 85, peacefully ascended to be with our Lord and Savior early Thursday morning, August 7, 2008; beloved husband for 64 years of his recently departed wife, Rosemary (Cunningham) Hartford; treasured father of David (Vera), Oakland, CA; Kate, Beijing, China; Larry (Dee), Laguna Niguel, CA; Barbara (Mike Mee), Mountain View, CA; James (Teresa), Charlotte, NC; Margaret, Morehead City, NC; Mary (David Birks), Mt. Lebanon, PA; cherished granddad of Jorel Gallardo, David and Lia Gaertner, Justin and Jennifer Hartford, Sara Wysocki, Alex and Kayleigh Birks; cherished great granddad of Carson, Kaela, Jadon, Kaia, Kiva and Mason; devoted brother of Jane

Holmes and Lincoln Hartford, the late Adelaide Russell and Margaret Hardesty; brother in law of Joan Serra, Patricia Kenney and Mary Cyphert; also survived by dozens of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews. Dallas was born in Winfield, Butler County son of the late Jefferson Saltsman and Anna Lucene (Jones) Hartford.

After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh and OCS, Dallas joined the 317th Infantry Regiment as a 1st Lieutenant. He married Rosemary shortly before his deployment to Europe. Captured by

the Germans, he was a POW until his camp was liberated in May of 1945. He was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the Victory Medal WWII, and the European/African/Middle East Campaign Medal with two bronze stars. Upon returning to the states, he began a career as a mining engineer with US Steel, retiring in 1982. An avid woodworker, he also shared his talent and time with the Boy Scouts of America, Knights of Columbus, St. Winifred Church, Greater Pittsburgh ARCS, South Hills Ultreya and the Cloverleaf Choralers. He taught many young people about the beauty of nature, and the joys of aero-modeling. Friends will be welcomed at the LAUGHLIN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 222 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, Monday, 2-4pm and 6-8pm. Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated in St. Winifred Church, Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. Interment, Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Thanks to the work of the VA and the Vietnam Veterans, and with the loving support of his wife, Dallas bravely attempted to surmount the effects of PTSD. If desired In honor of his memory, the family requests donations to the Wounded Warrior Project,

<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/content/view/627/924/>
www.laughlinfuneralhome.com

Bernard A. Opitz
 1917-2009

OPITZ-Bernard A., age 91, of Bellevue. February 18, 2009. Preceded by wife Rita. Survived by sons, James and wife Bonnie of Springfield, NE, John and wife Kathy of Fairfax, VA, Gerald and wife Marilyn of Omaha;

daughters, Maryann and husband Morris Naumann of Omaha, Pattie and husband Pat Shearman of Omaha; 15 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Violet Duree; brother-in-law and sister-in-law John and Mercedes Cunningham; many nieces and nephews.

Former WWII POW and vice president of Mutual of Omaha.

Vigil Service Friday 7pm Bellevue Memorial Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial Saturday 10am St. Mary Catholic Church, Bellevue. Interment Calvary Cemetery. VISITATION Friday 3-8pm at Bellevue Memorial Chapel. Memorials to Salvation Army, or your favorite charity.
 BELLEVUE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
 Heafey-Heafey-Hoffmann
 Dworak-Cutler
 22nd & Hancock, Bellevue 291-5000

Nicholas S. Rahal
 1921-2009



Nicholas Stephen Rahal, born June 25, 1921 Akron, Ohio, died Saturday February 21, 2009. He was the only child of mother Rose Murat and father Stephen Rahal and was pre-deceased by his 2 children Barbara and Stephen Rahal. He is survived by his wife Gail Waters Rahal, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Deborah and Ronald Fish, nieces and nephews Jennifer and Timothy Kaiser, Katharine and Mauro Falotico, Amara, Gianna, Hannah and Samuel Falotico, David Fish and Luke Fish as well as many cherished cousins.

Nicholas graduated from Danbury High School in 1939 and in 1940 joined the Connecticut National Guard, Danbury Armory Battery D of the 192nd Field Artillery Battalion, part of the 43rd New England Division. He graduated from Officer Candidate and Communications School in 1942 and in 1943 joined the 36th Division of the Texas National Guard.

Nicholas was part of the initial landing in Europe during WWII at Salerno, Italy. He was captured by the Germans in 1944



at Monte Casino and was an OFLAG 64 POW in Poland. The German Army forced prisoners from OFLAG 64 to march from Poland to Germany in 1945. During this march, OFLAG 64 was liberated by the Russians and Nicholas managed to escape both the German and Russian Armies.

In 1950 Nicholas graduated from Columbia with a BS in Electrical Engineering. That same year his National Guard unit was reactivated during the Korean War.

In 1952, after the Korean War, Nicholas went to work at the National Bureau of Standards. While employed there, in 1954 he received a joint patent for a Plating Thickness Indicator. He was then employed at Data Control Systems (DCS) as an Electronic Engineer from 1958 to 1983. In 1978 he received his MBA degree from the University of Connecticut. Nicholas left DCS in 1983 and started his own company, Infotronics, Inc. from which he retired in 2002.

In 2008 Nicholas was the Distinguished Speaker at the Connecticut State Capital on POW Recognition Day.

Prior to his death Nicholas was in the process of self-publishing through Borders his memoirs, titled "The Life of Nick Rahal ExPOW-WWII". He was greatly looking forward to viewing a published copy. His family intends to see the project finished in the near future.

During his retirement, Nicholas was an active member in the following:

St. Ann Melkite Greek Catholic Church – Danbury, CT, St. Ann Men's Society, Ex-POW Organization – Statewide, Burton Bradley American Legion Post – Woodbury, CT, VFW Post 7330 – Oakville, CT, DAV (Disabled American Veteran) Chapter 11 – Waterbury, CT

Calling Hours are Saturday February 28, 2008 from 9 am – 11 am followed by Services at 11 am at St. Ann Melkite Greek Catholic Church, 181 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT. Graveside services will be held at a future date with Full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

In-lieu of flowers please send "in memory" donations to the Red Cross because Nicholas always felt that the Red Cross parcels he received during his imprisonment saved his life.

(This obituary was written and submitted by Tim Kaiser, nephew of Nick Rahal)

<http://www.legacy.com/NewsTimes/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=124602178>

Hervey H. Robinson

1919-2008



Hervey H. Robinson, 89, of Green Cove Springs, FL, passed away Thursday, November 27, 2008. He was born on October 22, 1919 in Union, SC. Mr. Robinson was a World War II Veteran, serving his

country in the United States Army and was a German Prisoner of War for 2 years. He retired from the Army Reserve in 1969 as a LTC after 28 years of service. Mr. Robinson moved to the local area in 1952 from Burlington, NC and was the former owner of Clay Building Supply in Green Cove Springs from 1960-1975. He also worked as a teacher at Orange Park High School from 1975-1986. He had been a Mason for 60 years and was a member of the Cabul Lodge #116 F & AM in Green Cove Springs. Mr. Robinson was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs and will be dearly missed by his loving family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Robinson and is survived by his children, Edward L. Robinson (Diane) of Orlando, FL, Katherine Stevenson (John) of Fernandina Beach, FL and Nora E. Robertson (Mike) of Jacksonville, FL; brother, Charlie Robinson; sister, Martha Robinson; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. The family will receive friends from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm Sunday, November 30, 2008 at Broadus-Raines Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm Monday, December 1, 2008 at the First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs with Reverend W. Hunter Camp, II officiating. Interment will follow in Hickory Grove Cemetery. Please sign the family's online register book at www.broadusraines.com. Arrangements are under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000. Please Sign the Guestbook @ Jacksonville.com



William D. Warthen

1924-2009



02/16/09 – Mr. William Donovan "Bill" Warthen, of Vidalia GA passed away suddenly and quietly

on Monday at Meadows Memorial Hospital. Bill was born in Vidalia on Jan. 27, 1924 to Richard "Dick" Donovan Warthen and John Benton Warthen, II. And he lived in Vidalia his entire life. He graduated from Vidalia schools, attended GMC, the Citadel and was a World War II POW. A year before graduating, his 1944 class volunteered & entered active duty in the US Army Infantry, 84I Division. In Nov. 1944 as a First Lt. at the age of 20, he & about 70 other soldiers "walked slap-dab into a trap" on the Dutch/German/French border & were captured. He was a POW at Oflag 64 in Shuben, Poland until Jan. 1945 when they were forced to march over 325 miles before being liberated in May 1945. He awarded a Purple Heart. His return home from Europe in July '45 was followed almost immediately by marriage to his VHS classmate Dorothy Lewis. He worked his family farm for over 50 years raising cattle, soybeans, peanuts, tobacco, oats, cotton, and even a few onions. He also sold irrigation systems & operated a cotton gin in 1953. In the late 1950's Bill began working with J.B. Brewton at the GA Pecan Auction, which he operated from 1960 until 1997. He was known by many as "the Pecan Man". Bill was an active Kiwanian for over 40 years & served as its President & Key Club sponsor. He was selected as the "Vidalia Citizen of the Year" in 1974 & was awarded the Kiwanian "George Hixon Fellow" in 1998. He has been an enthusiastic member of the Democratic Committee, President of the Vidalia Chamber of Commerce, Secretary & Treasurer of the Vidalia School Board, served on the Library Board, the Meadows Memorial Hospital Board, AgFirst Board & on the Board of the Boys & Girls Club. He was a Supervisor of the Ochoopee River, Soil & Water Conversation. Bill was a founding member of the Altamaha Investment Club & the Toombs County Historical Society. He loved his family, friends, God, books, history, email, politics, land, & people.



He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Dorothy L. Warthen, & three children, Katherine Warthen Ezell (David Wahlstad) of Coral Gables FL, John B. Warthen, III of Vidalia/ Amherst, MA, and Ellen E. Warthen (Chris Grabbe) of Atlanta; two grandsons, Boyce F. Ezell, III of Coral Gables & William Donovan Ezell of Andover, MA; and two great grandchildren, Owen Donovan Ezell & Georgia Ezell. In lieu of flowers, donations to Boys & Girls Club of

Toombs Co. (PO Box 324, Vidalia 30475) or the Warthen/Kiwanis Scholarship (PO Box 1183, Vidalia 30475).

Funeral services will be held at 11 am, Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the First Baptist Church of Vidalia auditorium. Interment will follow in the Pinecrest Cemetery with Military Honors. Visitation will be at the Ronald Hall Funeral Home on Tues. from 5:30-7:30.

Published in Southeast Georgia Today and Home Savannah Morning News.
(A tribute follows at the end of the TAPS section.)

Charles A. "Charlie" Turnbo
1942-2009



On Friday, January 30, 2009, Charles Turnbo passed away at the age of 67 following a brief, but courageous battle with cancer. He died at home, with family by his side.

Charlie was born in Wichita Falls, TX on January 2, 1942, to Leland and Electra (Peggy) Turnbo. He was raised in a warm and loving Christian home. He attended Wichita Falls Senior High School and the University of North Texas (UNT), where he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Charlie obtained a B.A. in Psychology from UNT, and later earned a Master's Degree in social work from Louisiana State University. He also served in the United States Air Force Reserves for four years.

Charlie began his career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in 1970. He was a Warden in the Western and South Central regions, and spent the last seven years of his career as a Regional Director for the BOP in Philadelphia and Dallas before retiring in 1996.

One of the greatest passions in Charlie's life was history and genealogy. He was the author and publisher of 'The Texas Turnbo's' (1976) and co-authored 'Huffman = Heritage' (1985). In 2002, Charlie edited and published 'Home Was Never Like This', the war diaries of his uncle, who was a POW in Oflag 64 during WWII. Perhaps the work Charlie loved researching and writing the most, however, was his most recent 2007 publication, 'Salado, Texas - Frontier College Town'.

For the last 17 years, Charlie was involved in dispute resolution and mediation, and

marriage enrichment, divorce recovery, and Celebrate Recovery ministries. In addition, he published 'My Prayer and Devotional Journal' in 2001.

Charlie is survived by his loving wife, Beverly, with whom he shared 196 joyful months of marriage (16+ years); sons Scott (Bo) Turnbo and Jeff Turnbo and wife Shannon of Wichita Falls, TX; daughter Cindy Hathaway and husband Jay of Edmond, OK; and daughter Meg Rainwater of Austin, TX. He was "Peeps" (and "Indiana Jones") to five precious grandchildren: Rayna, Jesse, and Adam Turnbo, and Sydney and Leah Hathaway.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leland Turnbo. The primary source of Charlie's character and Christian walk came from his mother, Electra (Peggy) Turnbo, who survives him. He is also survived by his sister, Patricia Rhodes and brother-in-law, Dusty of Carrollton, TX; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Scot and Paula Baker of Glendora, California; aunt and uncle, Nita and Johnny Gauntt of San Antonio, TX; incredible nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Charlie's heart was serving the Lord and sharing His love with others. He will be fondly remembered as an amazing husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend. His loving kindness, humility, warmth, and compassion will be with us always. Charlie's smile lit up our world and will be missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

The family would like to give special thanks to our dear friends who have graciously supported us in so many ways over the last few months. We also want to acknowledge caringbridge.org, the nurses and staff at Seton Williamson hospital, VistaCare (hospice), Drs. Ramiro Peña, Mika Cline-Burkhardt and Valerian Chyle and their staff for their incomparable care, compassion and support.

Charlie's memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 6, 2009 at Temple Bible Church in Temple, TX (directions, below). Private graveside services will precede the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Discipleship Unlimited prison ministries (P.O. Box 145, Gatesville, TX 76528); 3C Cowboy Fellowship (P.O. Box 1282, Salado, TX 76571); Temple Bible Church (3205 Oakview Drive, Temple, TX 76502); First Baptist Church (210 South Main, Salado, TX 76571); or www.caringbridge.org

The following short entry also was published in the Dallas Morning News on 2/4/2009

Charles A. "Charlie" Turnbo
Turnbo, Charles A. "Charlie" Age 67, of Salado, passed away Friday, January 30, 2009. Broecker Funeral Home 254-947-0066

James L. Cockrell
-2009

We have received word from David McClendon, grandson of James Cockrell that James passed away on Friday, February 27, 2009. He was a POW at Oflag 64. He is survived by his wife, Peg, daughters Margaret "Anne" Matzelle, Mary Johnson, Janie Davis, son Robert Cockrell, and 16 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.



More information will be published as it becomes available.



Postage Fund Donors

THANKS to all who have generously donated to the postage fund. Without such thoughtful contributions, mailing the ITEM and other materials or information would not be possible.

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The Unsaid Things: A Tribute to Carl Bedient Father, Teacher, Paratrooper, POW, Farmer, Civil Servant, and Grandfather

Carolyn Nieland has been celebrating All Souls Day (Dia de los Muertos) in Wichita KS since 1993. Her 87-year-old father, Carl Bedient, was the reason she and her husband moved to the Rio Grande Valley three years ago.

Mr. Bedient, a WWII veteran and ex-POW, received his care at the McAllen Veteran's Clinic. His daughter recalls their last visit there in February; in the nurse's office a mandatory questionnaire was conducted. One of the items states, "In the past 30 days have you awakened in the night thinking of your military or war-time experiences?" For Mr. Bedient, after over 60 years, the answer was still, yes. In the week that followed, Ms. Nieland failed to grasp the opportunity to ask her father what memories of POW camp woke him in the night. Until 2001 she had never heard any part of his story, except for the socks and the sawdust bread.

After her father's death, the 3 children found many records and artifacts their father had saved in an army trunk. Carolyn remembers occasional glimpses during her childhood of the socks that "saved" her father's "life" on D-Day and the sawdust bread. She had never heard her father tell his story until Veteran's Day observance at Alamo Palms Mobil Home Park in 2001. He lost 1/4 of his body weight due to malnutrition. He wore the same clothes for 8 months. They all were so cold at Oflag 64.

Creating this altar has been part of the personal healing. Carolyn wants to remind viewers that on a community and national level, there are Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan veterans who likely are waiting far too long to receive the counseling and healing they deserve after their military service. Every citizen has the potential to be an activist, to support our soldiers while they are deployed and to pressure lawmakers to fund adequate aftercare when they return from service.

Carolyn's father chose to farm instead of returning to teaching after WWII. In the mid 50s the family was part of the move to a city from a rural area. For a quarter century Mr. Bedient was a federal civil servant until his retirement. He was always a gardener. His children remember him as chauffeur dad to our school, church, and scouting activities.

In retirement Carl volunteered for at least 3 groups. He played tennis until age 74 when a stroke affected his right side. His grandchildren remember pool and ping-pong parties plus dining out at birthdays. Traveling to regional big-band dance venues was a pleasure; his last was Jack Melick at Tropic Star in January 2007. Carl rode his 3-wheel bike until the end of February 2007.

When asked by his daughter what advice he had or the next generations, he responded, "Always tell the truth; it will come out anyway."

Submitted by Carolyn Nieland via Herb Garris

A Tribute to William "Bill" D. Warthen

For the last two weeks my mother, brother, sister and sons have been remembering and gratefully celebrating the happy, full, gentle and courageous life of our husband/father/grandfather William Donovan Warthen. Daddy was unique in so many ways, as is each of our Kriegies. But over the years of our family's happy association with Oflag64, I have observed that the powerful bond you share with each other is what you have in common—your experiences as a POW. Similarly, your loved ones—those parents and young ladies who waited back home, sharing news, hope, joys and sorrows, and now your children and grandchildren who have only heard the stories – have a special bond as well.

This lovely 1945 vintage tribute was sent to me by friends of my generation from Vidalia just a couple of months ago. It is an excerpt from a letter written by my friend's mother to his father who was stationed in Guam. She, like the many who loved you, was waiting for him to return safely home.

"All of Vidalia is happy today for Mr. and Mrs. Warthen received a card from Billy early this morning. He only gave his address which is a German prison camp, but this was wonderful to us-- all simply knowing he was alive. He has been missing for several months now and all hearts have been heavy not only because he is an only son of a very well-liked couple but because he is the sweetest boy and as much of a pet of Vidalia's as you are of Moultrie. Therefore everyone's face was beaming this morning when I reached town and people were shouting this news to friends as they passed them in automobiles and in the streets. I saw Mr. Warthen and he could hardly talk he was so happy. He said he knew all along I was thinking of them and truly I did offer many a prayer for this precious boy. Tho' you say mine (prayers) don't go very high, at least not so high as mother's, they were really answered this time, and I'm so thankful, and my faith in God is all the stronger. We think this 64th German camp where Billy is was liberated by the Russians only a few weeks ago. Won't it be too good if this is true?"

My friend added: "John [her husband] says that this shows you what a small town is all about. I think it shows that your father's place in Vidalia is so much a part of the town's soul..." We are blessed to have learned that Daddy was indeed a large part of Vidalia's soul, just as Vidalia and Vidaliens were of his. I know that each of you Kriegies has a place like that where you were loved dearly, prayed over, where friends and family rejoiced upon your being found and restored to them. I thought it might be nice for us to reflect on those happy memories and be grateful, as we are for each of you our dear friends with whom we share this special bond.

Written and Submitted by Kathy Warthen Ezell