

Post **Oflag 64** Item

2009 Summer

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THE OFLAG 64 WEBSITE HAS BEEN REMODELED AND UPDATED!

As you may remember, our Oflag 64 website was having significant problems with an unstable server, which made updating the site or even staying on line difficult and sometimes an impossible task. My brother-in-law, Chris Weatherford, did a remarkable job at creating the site and providing the ability to access the information from it. We greatly appreciate the endless hours of work he did and the great service he provided. Due to the server problem, however, we all voted at the Washington D.C. Reunion to find a new server and pay any associated fees.

My husband, Bill Caldwell, began experimenting with our computer software and found that he was able to produce a website and could use our own computer as the server. We approached Chris about switching the responsibility of maintaining the site to us. Because of the server problems and other difficulties he encountered in maintaining the site, he agreed. We've tried to maintain the integrity and organization of Chris' original site design while updating the overall look of the site and adding some additional content. On the Home Page you'll find a "What's New" button, which will show you a short list of new features and information on the site. Although the switch to our server has taken place, the web address remains the same: <http://www.oflag64.org>

One new request we'd like to make is that Kriegies send photos of the men like the one found on page 14 of this ITEM. We have a photo gallery for them on the website. If possible, please also identify the men in the photos.

A WORD ABOUT THE FT. COLLINS REUNION...please see the next 3 pages for registration and hotel reservation information. Please also send your registration form to Julie as soon as possible so we can get a headcount. Her address is at the left of this page. We're looking forward to a wonderful event. Hope to see you soon.



Best Regards, *Elodie Caldwell*

A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

Dear Oflag 64 Family,

Plans are going well for the reunion. The hotel is really bending over backward to help us keep costs down and still have a great time. There are 4 different types of rooms at the hotel and each is very nice. The 2 room suite has a large bedroom and a separate sitting room with a couch that folds out into a double bed. It has 1.5 bathrooms. It could house 2 couples or 2 people who did not want to share the same space. The one room suite has the bedroom and sitting room together and one bathroom but also has a fold out couch. The king room and queen room are very nice for couples or 2 people who do not mind sleeping in the same area. There are many handicap accessible rooms and even some hearing and vision-impaired rooms. The latter 2 have a loud doorbell which flashes a bright light in the room when rung. There is a swimming pool and whirlpool that have giant "arms" that assist people into them. Since all the rooms are non-smoking the hotel has a "smoking pavilion" which is a cute little screened-in pavilion that is heated and has comfy seats. If you must smoke in a room please call the hotel and they will arrange a room for you at the very nearby Hampton Inn. This will count toward our room total and thus help keep down the costs for everyone.

There is a small restaurant in the hotel with good food. I was going to arrange for a pre-paid breakfast daily consisting of a breakfast bar for all but found out that they have the same thing more cheaply every day in the restaurant. That seemed more practical, so I only set up one for the day of the memorial.

The tours are great and should be fun and informative. The City Tour is included in the registration fee. You will get to see the campus of Colorado State University, tour the Budweiser plant, visit our WWII Memorial and shop or window shop in Old Town. The Rocky Mountain National Park tour is optional but well worth it. Even the drive in the bus is gorgeous as we will go up the Big Thompson Canyon, a narrow, very scenic canyon. There are often Big Horn sheep sightings along this road. We will picnic in the Park at Sprague Lake which has handicap tables and restrooms and you can walk or wheel around the beautiful lake on a paved path or just sit and admire the mountains. It will be a longer trip but on a very comfortable bus it should be relaxing. We will have a 3-hour break before the banquet.

The banquet is at the hotel and we will have 3 dinner choices. If anyone has dietary restrictions please call the hotel and let them know and they will be very accommodating. Dr. Sutherland will speak after dinner followed by music and possibly dancing. There will be a professional photographer at the dinner and the Kriegies will be photographed as a group. Individual sittings will also be available and you can purchase these.

The hotel will set up a personalized website for us. Reservations can be made from this site and updates, messages, changes and the itinerary will be posted there.

I am really looking forward to having you come to Colorado.



Sincerely,
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 OFLAG 64 REUNION - FORT COLLINS, CO

Thursday, September 17 – Sunday, September 20

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(The most current schedule will also be printed in the August ITEM.)

Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 18

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast on your own **

8:45 – 11:30 Business meeting

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 on your own**

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/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=FNLFCGI>

The group reservation is under "Oflog 64" at the rate of \$93+tax per night and applies 3 days prior to and 3 days following the reunion.



MAIL CALL



BARBARA BICKERS from Prospect Heights IL (daughter of Jim Bickers) sent a printed copy of an interview with her dad regarding his WWII experiences, with gratitude for work on the ITEM. *Thanks, Barbara, for your nice note and for the copy of the book. So much comes to life when reading such experiences. What a nice addition to any library! Please write again.*



JAMES F. BICKERS from Wilmette IL sent a donation to the Postage Fund not long ago. *Thanks, Jim, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. We're so appreciative of all the support we receive from our Oflag 64 family members. We would love to see you at a future reunion. Please let us hear from you again. By the way, we hope you had an enjoyable 90th birthday.*

O. L. "BRAD" BRADFORD from Grove City OH sent a contribution to the Postage Fund along with a note and a copy of a nice notice he printed up after his wife, Jean, passed away. He said that although her death was not unexpected, he still wonders a couple of months later how he's going to adjust after her passing. He expressed: "I certainly appreciate the notices of condolence I've received from the "64" crew." He plans to attend the Colorado Reunion. *Thanks so much, Brad, for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. We greatly appreciate the support given by our Oflag 64 family members. We know that the passing of loved ones is always difficult and sometimes adjustments take a while. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Looking forward to seeing you at the reunion. Please keep in touch.*



GAIL BRADFORD BROWN from Millersport OH (daughter of O. L. "Brad" Bradford) recently sent sad news of her mother's death. She wrote: "Just wanted the Oflag family to know that my mother, Jean Bradford, passed away on March 9. She had been in a wheelchair since 1988 after

suffering an aneurism. She was such an inspiration to us...she never, ever complained. My dad will miss her dearly as we all will. He has taken care of her for all these years...he was the nurse, the cook, the laundryman, the taxi driver and a devoted friend and husband. He has so many stars in his crown, it is a wonder that he can even hold up his head! Condolences could be sent through:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=125010915> and I will copy them for him or his address is O. L. Bradford, 5826 Ravine Creek Dr., Grove City, Ohio 43123. My best to all and we hopefully will see you all in Colorado!" **(Please see the TAPS section for Jean Bradford's obituary.)** *Thanks, Gail, for writing. We were so sorry to hear this news of your mother. Thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve. We also send best wishes to you and your family as well as our sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences. We know she will be missed. Hope to hear from you again soon.*

HELEN CHAPPELL from Kaufman TX (wife of Roy "Tex" Chappell) recently emailed: "How we would love to be able to attend the reunions, but it is not a possibility. Roy is holding his own mentally, but he is losing ground physically and with his heart. We thank God for every single day we have. He cannot leave his hospital bed, and the days are long for him, but he is so content and patient (for a man who has been such a leader in all areas, I am so amazed by his acceptance). We will keep you posted....In a subsequent email Helen wrote: "Roy is not doing well at all. We now have nursing care around the clock---night and day. He has some days when he is very alert---others he just sleeps night and day. My heart is heavy as our family says "a long goodbye", but I rejoice in the years we have shared, for 71 years (counting our courting time). Just keep us in your prayers." *Thanks, Helen, for writing and updating us on Roy's health. We are saddened to hear of his worsening condition but our thoughts, prayers, support and love are with you*



and your family. Please keep us informed as time goes by.



BILL R. CORY from Naples FL sent a contribution to the Postage Fund along with a nice letter to Kathy Ezell and to me (Elodie) regarding the early days at Oflag 64 and a little about the original

group of about 150. Over time, more POWs joined the ranks of Oflag 64 POWs and soon the “new ones” became good friends with the “old ones. He spoke fondly of Hervey Robinson. Some of his best memories are of meeting others at the Oflag 64 Reunions over the years. One, in particular, was Bill Warthen of whom he also fondly spoke. Lastly, he expressed regret at not being able to make future reunions. *Thanks so much, Bill, for your very generous and thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We appreciate it more than you know. Thanks also for the summary of early Oflag 64 days and comments on the ITEM. We will certainly miss you at future reunions, but hope you'll keep in touch.*

VAUGHN S. EDSALL from Keizer OR is a new member of our organization and is a distant relative of Lester Edsall with whom he has just connected. He wrote: “Thank you for the warm welcome. My name is Vaughn S. Edsall and I reside in Oregon with my wife and 3 sons. I was born in Middletown, New York as was my father. I am a distant cousin of one of your former POW's, Mr. Lester K. Edsall. I am now in my 15th year of Edsall family research and have established, among many other things, the family line/connection I share with Lester. I have never spoken with Lester and just yesterday sent him a letter of introduction. I served nine years in the US Navy between 1984-1993. I have a great interest in American military history and a deep respect for the men who served in World War II. I found your website while trying to learn more about Lester, and his service, and once I found out what it is that your organization did and why, I immediately recognized how valuable it was to the advancement of these men's memories.” Since this correspondence, Vaughn and Lester have spoken with each other and their connection has been shared. *Thanks, Vaughn, for sharing this very interesting connection with us. We hope you are able to put many puzzle pieces together now that*

you've found Lester. We'd love to hear updates from time to time. We hope you'll keep in touch.

DAVID HARLOW from Wagoner OK (nephew of the late William L. Harlow, killed in action) sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks so much, Dave, for supporting the Oflag 64 Association with your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We so much appreciate the support others give to keep the ITEM going. We hope to hear from you again.*

ANN HART-OTTERBEIN (daughter-in-law of the late Louis “Lou” Otterbein) recently contacted us after her daughter found our website while doing a WWII project. Ann has sent photos of the plays that Lou staged, set, or constructed while at Oflag 64. You can see them on our website. *Thanks so much, Ann, for the treasure trove of photos you sent. What a priceless gift to those who took part in those productions and to those who have wondered about them. We're looking forward to more memorabilia as time goes by. Please keep in touch.*

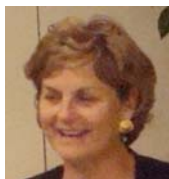
E. REAGAN HEARTFIELD from Fredericksburg TX sent a generous and thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. *We're so appreciative of those who are able to contribute to the Postage Fund. Each donation goes a long way to help send the ITEM each quarter. Thanks, Reagan, for thinking of us. Please let us hear from you again.*



VICTORIA L. HERRING from Des Moines IA (daughter of the late Clyde E. Herring) recently found our website and has shared information about her father who was in the 168th Infantry, Red Bull

Division. She is gathering pictures, memorabilia, and various artifacts and is assembling them. It's her understanding that the Iowa Gold Star Museum has some memorabilia as well. She stated that she attended a reunion in IOWA with her parents years ago and has fond memories of a grand time. *It was great to hear from you, Victoria. We have a wonderful, supportive group of Kriegies and families who are more than willing to share whatever information they have available about other Kriegies they have known. We hope you're able to find the information you need. Hope to hear from you again soon.*

ANNE KREUTZER from Woodbridge VA (daughter of the late Nathaniel R. Hoskot) sent a nice note along with a donation to the Postage Fund in her dad's memory.



Thanks so much, Anne, for your kind words and for your generous and thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. It's great to have such tremendous support. What would we do without such a wonderful Oflag 64 family? Hope to hear from you again soon.



JONEL C. HILL from Pasadena CA recently sent a couple of donations to the Postage Fund. He also sent a note stating: "Our schedule will not allow us to go to Fort Collins in September" as the

date conflicts with another reunion. *Thanks so much, Jonel, for your generous and thoughtful contributions to the Postage Fund. Your continued support of the Oflag 64 Association is greatly appreciated. We will miss you in Colorado but hope to see you in 2010. Please write again.*

WILLIAM F. JONES from Knoxville TN (son of the late William K. Jones) recently emailed regarding exact directions to Oflag 64 as he is planning a trip there soon. He wrote: "If it helps, maps.google gives me this LAT/LON for what this email claims is the correct location for Oflag 64:

53.004765, 17.724375 or
53 deg 0' 17.154", 17 deg 43' 27.75"

He also sent additional directions to Oflag 64. (Please see the Information Station section of this ITEM.) *Thanks, Bill, for sending directions to Oflag 64. While some have been there a time or two, knowing how to tell someone else to get there sometimes doesn't work out so well. Would love to hear about your trip. We hope you'll keep in touch.*

EVELYN KORBER from Cheyenne WY (widow of William B. Korber) sent a note of appreciation along with a contribution to the Postage Fund. *Thanks, Evelyn, for your kind words and also for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We are so fortunate to have such supportive Oflag 64 families. Please write again.*

DAVID LASSMAN from McLean VA a new member of our organization recently emailed: "I

am handling most of the archival work for Chief Ranger Vincent Santucci at the George Washington Memorial Parkway on the Fort Hunt project. If you would include me in relevant emails, such as the newsletter, it would be greatly appreciated." David is a Cultural History Park Ranger working with the National Park Service. As you may recall, Fort Hunt is the place where P.O. Box 1142 originated. *Thanks, David, for writing. We have added you to our ITEM mailing list as well as our email list and hope you'll enjoy your association with our Oflag 64 family. Please let us hear from you again.*

LANA FARBER LE VINE from Strasburg VA (daughter of the late Leo J. Farber) sent an interesting email recently. She wrote: "I was out doing just a general Google search on Oflag 64 today and came across an interesting website -- which was a true life musical/love story about Don Waful and his wife Cassie during the war. What piqued my interest of course was that Mr. Waful was a POW in Oflag 64 and the dates of capture (North Africa) and incarceration coincided with my fathers. Mr. Waful (a musician) apparently formed a band while a prisoner and this story spoke of putting on plays. This doubled my curiosity since my father was in a play and portrayed Gypsy Rose Lee (aka "Queenie"). While reviewing the website, I viewed some of the pictures and I can't explain the chills I got when I was looking at my father! Needless to say, I would love to get in contact with Mr. Waful to see if he remembers my father. In case you're interested, here's the website":

http://www.illbeseeingyou.org/pdf/ibsy_presskit.pdf

Thanks, Lana, for sharing the website with us. What a great site! We hope others will enjoy it as well. We also hope you've been able to make contact with Mr. Waful and to learn more about your father. Please update us from time to time.



LUCY LUSSENDEN from Livonia MI (widow of the late Donald Lussenden) sent the following sad news of her daughter: "My daughter Debbie passed away at home yesterday afternoon, May 28, at 4:25 PM. She fought the good fight, but leukemia won. Viewing will be on Sunday from 1-7 PM and Monday from 10 AM until the funeral service at Noon at the Harry J.

Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia 48152,(734)591-3700.

Debra was a very organized woman, as many of you know. She has been preparing for this day for many weeks and months, but especially since May 1st when the doctor told her the leukemia had returned and was very aggressive. He gave her only 2-3 weeks to live. Deb chose to decline chemo and decided to spend her remaining days at home with her loving family and two dogs. Debbie made most of the decisions concerning her funeral arrangements, such as her choice of clothing, etc. She did not specify any particular special organization or charity that she would ask you to support in memory of her, should you prefer to not send flowers. I would ask, then, that you send any gift to the charity or group of your choice. She did have a fondness for animals and especially horses. Horses Haven in Michigan rescues and cares for neglected or injured horses. The Humane Society and rescue groups for dogs and other animals had a soft spot in her heart. I am sure that she would be very happy if you supported these groups as a memorial to her." *Thanks, Lucy, for writing. We are saddened by this devastating news, Debbie certainly fought the good fight. We express our sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences to you and your family. You will certainly be in our thoughts and prayers as well. We know she will be greatly missed by many. Please let us know how you're doing from time to time.*



ED MAREK from Wausau WI

(webmaster for the Talking Proud! website) recently sent an email granting permission for us to use information from his website on our own site. He has included a lengthy section on "The Kriegies of Oflag 64" on his site. We have in turn linked his site to our website. He wrote: "I have been thinking about traveling to Poland (I am 100 percent Polish ancestry), renting a car, and driving the route taken by the Oflag 64 men. Actually I'm anxious to do this. I know there are some signs along the way. On my site, I tried to map out the route though I am not sure I have it exactly right. Has anyone in your crew ever done this?"

When I was in the Indochina War, I flew as crew aboard EC-47 electronic recon-naissance aircraft over Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, low and slow, unarmed, and must confess I was

scared to death of getting captured if I had to bail out. I think my enemies were probably far more ruthless than the Germans, but having been stationed in Germany for several years, I can imagine the cold and lack of food and water being an awful experience. In any event, having been to all the USAF survival schools, I think I would have a great understanding of what the Oflag guys went through. So I hope I can do the trip, maybe next year.

God bless to all --- the Oflag 64 guys remain on my mind and in my heart. *Thanks so much for writing, Ed, and for permission to use your information and photos as needed. We will put you in touch with some who are able to help with your route map. Best wishes to you. Please write again.*

ANNE MATZELLE from Sugar Land TX

(daughter of the late James L. Cockrell, Jr.) recently sent a copy of her dad's memoirs. Another copy was submitted to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. As you may recall, James Cockrell recently passed away. **(Please see the TAPS section for his obituary.)** He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery the end of April. *Thanks so much, Anne, for sending your dad's memoirs which are now online. What a treasure! Our best to you and your family as you adjust to the loss of your dad. Please write again.*

JAMIE EVANS NIMMO from Seneca SC

(daughter of the late James G. Evans) found a small notebook that belonged to her father not long ago. She wrote: "It has a blue paper cover and label that says in French and English "Offered by European Student Relief Fund" and was obviously folded to fit in a pocket. My dad (at the time - Captain James G. Evans) wrote " Moosburg-Schubin-Hammelburg" on the front. The notebook does not have the Oflag 64 stamp on it so it is not clear to me when he used it. He listed names, addresses and a few occupations of men I assume who served with him. I have checked the Oflag 64 roster and was able to confirm most of the names listed.....Researching has been so interesting so finding my father's notebook written in his own handwriting has been most gratifying." *Thanks, Jamie, for sharing information about your father's notebook. How exciting to discover this information written in his own hand. It was good*

to hear from you again. Keep us posted on other new discoveries.



ROBERT M. O'NEILL from Prescott AZ sent a recent email asking about a 2008 Kriegy photo. He also stated that he is looking forward to the 2009 Reunion in Colorado. *Thanks, Bob, for your*

emails. It's always good to hear from you. We hope you enjoy the 2008 Kriegy photo and are looking forward to seeing you again at the next Reunion. Please keep in touch.

JOHN PAULL from Ridgecrest CA (nephew of the late Julius J. Paull) has sent a couple of great emails lately. A recent one includes pictures of WWII posters. If you are interested in having this email forwarded to your email address, please send a request to Elodie Caldwell at: elodie-oflag64@comcast.net *Thanks, John, for sending this. As stated in the email – It's good "to see that somebody saved them."*

ROBERT W. RIVERS from Orcutt CA sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with compliments on the ITEM. *Thanks, Bob, for your kinds words about the ITEM and also for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our Oflag 64 Family. Please write again.*



FRANCIS R. ROBICHAUD from Jupiter FL (nephew of the late Rodney F. Cloutman, pictured here) recently found our website searching for information about his uncle. He

wrote: "Someone might very well remember my uncle. He did quite an incredible thing. He was a sergeant and received a battlefield commission for capturing 1800+ Germans himself. I have a copy of an article in the Saturday Evening Post that was published on Dec 2, 1944 written by the well-known WW 2 writer, Clarence Meltesen. His name was Rodney Cloutman and he was a 2nd Lt when captured on Dec 8, 1944. He later went to Korea and was captured as a POW when the 2nd Inf. was overrun on Nov 26 1950. He died in that POW camp." Francis asks anyone with

information about his uncle to share if possible. He can be reached at: 10152 West Indiantown Road #101, Jupiter FL 33478-4707 *Thanks, Francis, for sharing information about your uncle. What an incredible accomplishment and service to his country at the same time! We are sorry to hear he didn't survive in Korea. We hope you find the information you seek. Please let us hear from you again.*

JAVIER SERDA from Pharr TX

(son of the late Gabriel Serda) has recently become aware of our current Oflag 64 Family. In an answer to our request for more information on his dad, Javier sent copies of newspaper articles, of POW photos, Gabriel's obituary and funeral program, and pictures of the barber shop Gabriel began in 1948. **(Please see the Information Station for pictures and information. Also see the TAPS section for Gabriel Serda's obituary.)** *Thank you very much, Javier, for the priceless information you sent on your father. How wonderful it's been to learn more of another one of our great Kriegies and heroes. Please write again.*



BEL R. SMITH from San Rafael CA (widow of the late Matthew C. Smith) sent a short note along with a donation to the Postage Fund. She also sent information that had previously been sent to her by "Cheerful Charlie" Cheatham. (Please see the Information Station section.) *Thank you so much, Bel, for your note and for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. It was good to hear from you again and to receive the information sent to you by "Cheerful Charlie". Please keep in touch.*



ROBERT T. THOMPSON from Tulsa OK recently wrote that his computer has been down and that he's behind on his correspondence. He also mentioned that he is losing his

eyesight and is having trouble seeing things, but that somehow he's managing. Separately he sent information on the passing of James B. Bond. **(Please see the TAPS section for James' obituary.)** *It's good to hear from you again, Bob. We appreciate the information on James Bond. Also, we're sorry to hear about your eyesight. You'll certainly be in our thoughts*

and our prayers. Best wishes to you and your family. Please write again when you can.

FLOYD L. VADEN III (son of the late Floyd L. Vaden, Jr.) recently wrote: "Hello Oflag 64, Today is the 16th anniversary of my father's passing. He died on March 3, 1993. Please assure that Floyd L. Vaden's name is included with all his brothers of Oflag 64. He was a very proud member of this organization. Thanks to you and all the surviving members of this fine group of men. " *Thanks, Floyd, for contacting us and letting us know about your father's passing. Even though years pass, we still miss our deceased loved ones very much. Your father's name has been added to the Oflag 64 website TAPS list. Please write again.*

ED WARD from Alachua FL (son of the late Edwin O. Ward) wrote that he had been in contact with Bob Thompson regarding the Voice Recordings of Oflag 64. Bob has several copies and has mailed a copy to Ed. *Thanks, Ed, for writing. It's always nice when connections are made and you're able to find those things for which you are looking. Hope to hear from you again soon.*

WILLIAM F. WENZEL from Prairie Du Sac WI, a new member of our Oflag 64 family, recently found our website and asked to be added to our email list. He also requested: "I would like to trade emails with those POWs that were in Oflag 64. My dad fought on the Western front in the Battle of the Bulge and later was posted in Berlin, but our German family roots were from Schubin. Not only that, but there was some family contact between the wars and I thought it would be an interesting perspective for those who wish to discuss it with me. I actually would like to go to Schubin with my teenage daughter, it having been an interest since I was a child, and it would also be nice to talk to those of you that have visited there." *Welcome, William, to our Oflag 64 family. You'll love your association with the group and find them to be most helpful in sharing information. An email has been sent out with your request. We hope you hear soon from those who are able to share information. Please keep in touch.*

JAMES N. YAMAZAKI from White Salmon WA sent a donation to the Postage Fund along with a short note of appreciation a while back.

He also mentioned that his wife, Aki's, post-hip surgery will not allow them to attend the Reunion in Denver. *Thanks very much, Jim, for your kind words and for your thoughtful contribution to the Postage Fund. We hope that Aki's hip surgery recovery goes well and that we'll see you both at a future reunion. Please let us hear from you again.*



JOSEPH J. ZELAZNY from Tacoma WA recently sent a crystal sculpture copy of the "emotional and impressive sculpture located in the POW/MIA National Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery." Joseph has worked tirelessly on POW/MIA memorials in both Washington and California and has received recognition for all his efforts. *Thank you very much, Joseph, for the beautiful crystal sculpture and also for your dedicated service to our nations POWs and MIAs. All deserve to be remembered. We hope to see you at a future reunion. Please keep in touch.*

ORPHA T. ZIEGLER from Dallas TX sent an email recently along with compliments on the ITEM and a photo of him with his daughter. Included also was an excerpt from a story he wrote regarding WWII events. In his email he wrote: "I joined the Kriegies at Oflag 64 in September of 1944. On August 12th of 1944 I was on a reconnaissance mission for the 167th Combat Engineering Battalion. I was sitting next to my driver, Corporal Ron Baker, and there were two other soldiers in the back seat of the jeep. We were checking the condition of the roads in Normandy France.



We ran into a nest of German snipers in the hedgerow near a little town called Villaines-la-Juhel. They opened fire and killed Ron Baker. Even though the top of Ron Baker's head had been blown off, I kept trying to get up and get him. I guess I was in shock. The Germans shot me 4 times and then threw a grenade just to make sure I finally got the message. I was taken as a prisoner of war and sent to Oflag 64.

My daughter, Deborah, and my grand daughter, Brittany, went to France last year. They drove to the little town of Villaines-la-Juhel

and met with the mayor, Maire Bill Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt is the son of the former mayor - who was the mayor in 1944. He remembered my capture and he showed my daughter the barn that I was taken - where they sprinkled sulfa powder on my injuries and dug one bullet out with a pen knife. The other bullets are still with me.

The Mayor took my daughter and her family out for cocktails after he showed them a memorial that had been built in memory of my jeep driver, Ron Baker. The mayor and I have corresponded and they have asked to print the story of what happened in French.

I sure wish I could make the Kriegy reunions! But, I'm doing good to make one trip a year.

Send my best wishes to everyone who shared Kriegyville with me. What a marvelous bunch of men - who tried to keep each others spirits up when sometimes all we could think of was what would the next meal be - and when?"

Thanks so much, Orpha, for writing and for sending compliments on the ITEM. And thanks also for sharing a little bit of your past history with us. The excerpt from your story has been added to the Oflag 64 website under the heading "Other POW Stories". We hope you'll write again.

NEWS FROM NILS COWAN ON THE MIS-X PROJECT DOCUMENTARY



Dear Elodie, The big piece of news for us this spring is that we're finally in the process of doing all of the finishing work on the film about MIS-X. It's very exciting, but the project has taken some very odd twists and turns on it's way to completion.

We've had three producers, government/military consultants, and a room full of folks at National Geographic all weighing in on decisions. So the end product is not exactly what I'd envisioned, but it's still in our opinion a very good and entertaining show. The most unfortunate of the decisions made by Nat. Geo. is to cut out the Oflag-64/weapons smuggling story from the version that will air on TV. I think this was partly because the military wouldn't let us tell all of the story,

Sorry for the bad news, but I think it's still a very good show and hopefully the Kriegies of

Oflag-64 will recognize all of the great story details they gave us to make the film what it is.

I wish you the best and look forward to hearing from you soon. Yours, Nils

In a separate email Nils wrote:

Hi Elodie, We have been asking for a final air date and haven't yet gotten one. All they've said is that they really, really like the show and could possibly be pushing the airing until the fall when it's likely to get more viewership.

Wilbur Sharpe and a few of the Stalag Luft III Kriegies have been asking the same question and I feel terrible but it's all I can say for right now.

As soon as I do get an official air date I will let you know. Best, Nils

Postage Fund Donors

THANK YOU to all who have generously donated to the postage fund. With such thoughtful contributions and generous support, mailing the ITEM and other materials or information is consistently possible.

James F. & Emily Bickers

O. L. "Brad" Bradford

William R. Cory

David W. Harlow

E. Reagan Heartfield

Jonel C. Hill

Evelyn Korber

Anne Hoskot Kruetzer in memory of her father

Robert W. Rivers

James N. Yamazaki



If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund and mail your donation to:

Bret Job
4240 Trail Ridge Ln
Minnetonka MN
55345-2554

or

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Ave
Longview WA
98632-4437

INFORMATION STATION

About Szubin

Dear Mr. Jones:

We have talked to an employee of the Museum of Szubin Region who provided the following information:

After World War II the camp grounds of Oflag 64 were divided into several lots and turned over to different institutions. Some of the camp buildings were preserved, and are now used for different purposes. It appears that the respective lots currently belong to: the juvenile correctional facility, local administration, police station and church. They are located on or around Kacynska Street number 34 and 36. The internet link below shows the location of Kacynska Street in the city of Szubin : <http://www.szubin.srebrno-czarna.pl/>

Szubin does not have a separate POW museum. There are exhibitions on Oflag 64 in the Museum of Szubin Region; however they may be closed for visitors when you arrive to Poland because the museum is preparing for a major renovation project.

There are no regular organized tours of the former camp grounds, but an employee of the museum is always happy to walk the grounds with interested visitors and tell them about the history of Oflag 64. Even if the exhibitions are closed due to the renovation of the museum building, an employee should be available to assist. There may be one difficulty, however, regarding an interpreter. The museum does not seem to have English speaking personnel. In the past the visitors from the U.S. who wanted to visit Oflag 64 grounds (former prisoners and their families) arrived to Szubin with their own interpreters. Szubin is a small town, it appears there is no travel agency there or an officially registered English translator, so hiring a person there who could help with interpreting may pose a problem. You may therefore wish to consider bringing an interpreter with you

from one of a nearby bigger cities (e.g. Bydgoszcz).

Below please find the link to the website of the museum with their e-mail address and phone number. They suggested that you contact them directly when you know your itinerary, and they will arrange for the assistance of a museum representative to walk the grounds with you. <http://www.muzeum.szubin.net/index.php?d=kontakt>

We hope this information proves useful to you. If we can be of further assistance to you please let us know.

Sincerely,

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Warsaw , Poland

<http://poland.usembassy.gov>

Tel. (011) 48 22 504 2784

Fax (011) 48 22 504 2122

* * * * *

About Kriegy Gabriel Serda

An article written several years ago, recently submitted by Javier Serda (son of the late Kriegy Gabriel Serda)

Fifty-nine years ago, when Mr. Gabriel Serda entered the U.S. Army, WWII had not yet become a reality. Troops were being assembled and rained for the possibility of war. Mr. Serda was a mortar gunner for the 81st Armored Reconnaissance Division in Africa. His company was surrounded by the enemy. They were instructed to attempt to break through enemy lines and rejoin friendly forces. After wandering through the desert for three days, he and 26 others were taken prisoners by the Germans. From that day on, he would be a POW for 2 years, 2 months, and 2 days. This period in his life is deeply ingrained in his memory.

Being a POW, Mr. Serda had to learn to survive and to escape, if at all possible. He would have to deal with his captors, the

conditions that he was exposed to, and support for his fellow POWs and for himself.

From Africa where he was captured, they were flown to Italy and from there to different POW camps in Germany. At each camp, he was to assess the situation rapidly and learn to adjust to the harsh physical and mental demands that he would face. Routinely, they were served for breakfast a version of a cup of coffee and a piece of bread; for lunch, a bowl of soup that was mainly water and for supper another cup of coffee, a slice of bread with a piece of butter. Usually, everyone went to bed hungry. This, coupled with the daily work chores was a significant strain physically and mentally. Mr. Serda gives much recognition to the Red Cross organization. When they were finally allowed to intervene, the prisoners began to improve their physical status. Necessities, such as blankets and parcels of food were provided by the Red Cross. Mr. Serda recognized the need to keep himself continuously busy to overcome the mental stress that he and the others were facing. Mail was occasional but obviously a strong glimmer of hope for everyone. Escapes were ongoing but at that time, it was difficult for them to know what percentages were successful or not. Due to his civilian profession, he was assigned as one of many barbers for U.S. troops (POWs)

Each prisoner dealt with his captivity in his own way. Everyone was different in his attitude. Still each one of them realized the need to lend each other support for survival. Mr. Serda attributes, in part, the hard times he faced during the Depression as a positive experience that now came into play in helping him face his situation—survival under very difficult conditions.

To someone who has never faced such harsh realities, it is difficult to completely understand the day to day struggle that a POW faces. On April 21, 1945, his prison camp at Luckenwalde, Germany was liberated by the Russian Army. The German captors were removed. However, the entire camp remained under control of the Russian Army. There was a

sense of relief in that an ally of the United States was now in control.

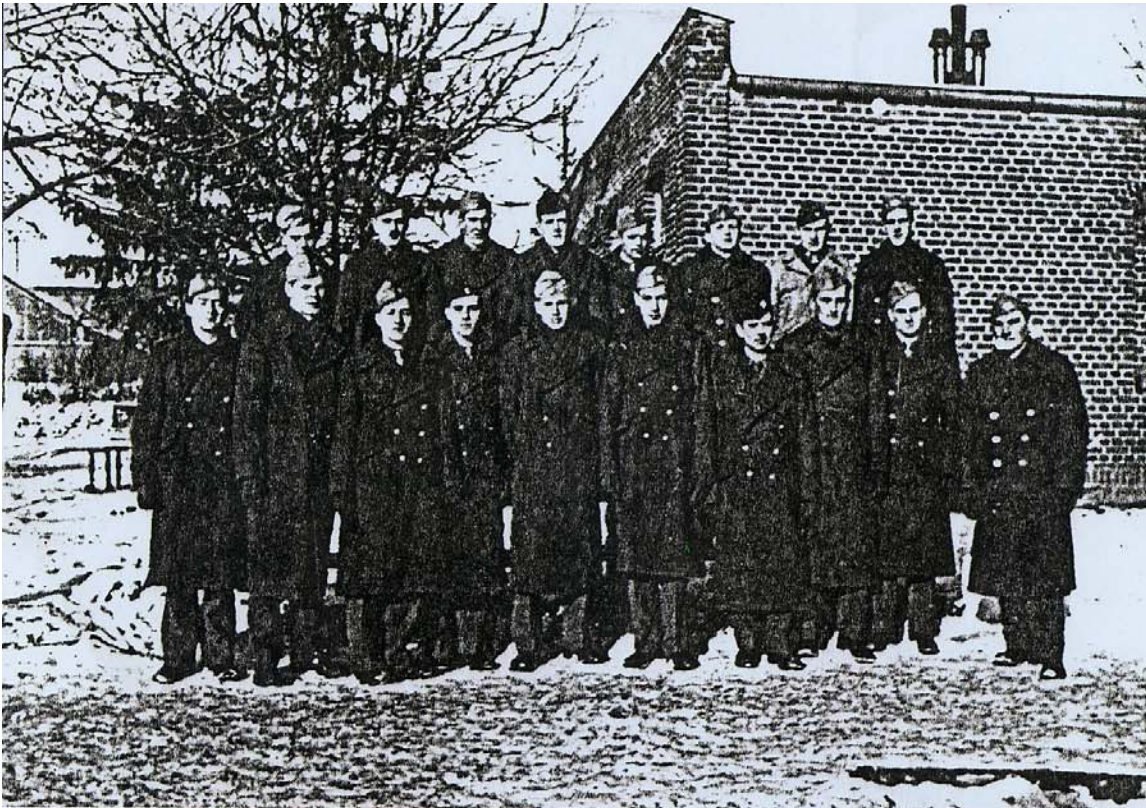
Mr. Serda still remains extremely positive about what he had to confront in the service of his country. He strives to instill within his family, his friends, and his community the values of a free and democratic country. He will never forget the people with whom he lived as a POW. In his own words, "Thanks to Almighty God that I am still alive."

POW camps where Mr. Serda was incarcerated:

2/17/43 – 2/21/43	Tunisia
2/21/43 – 2/26/43	Naples
4/2/43 – 4/23/43	Munich IIIA
4/25/43 – 7/18/43	Fosterburg IIIB
7/19/43 – 1/25/44	Site Camp IIIB
1/30/44 – 2/21/44	Hammerstein IIB
2/22/44 – 3/21/45	Oflag 64
3/9/45 – 4/21/45	Luckenwalde



Gabriel Serda at Oflag 64
Photo Submitted by Javier Serda



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| (9) | (10) | (11) | (12) | (13) | (14) | (15) | (16) | (17) | (18) |
| 1 ? | 2 ? | 3 WILL FARRELL | 4 BOB WICK | 5 SAMMY SAXTON | 6 CHARLES CHEATHAM | 7 LOBB ? | 8 ? | 9 BOB BONAMI ? | |
| | | | | | | | | 10 ZOLTON TAKAS | |
| | | | | | | | | 11 JOHN CREECH | |
| | | | | | | | | 12 MILTON JELLISON | |
| | | | | | | | | 13 HERB JOHNSON | |
| | | | | | | | | 14 GEORGE JUSKALINE | |
| | | | | | | | | 15 MATT SMITH | |
| | | | | | | | | 16 WAYNARD FILES | |
| | | | | | | | | 17 ? | |
| | | | | | | | | 18 IRVING YAROCK | |

Originally sent to Bel Smith by Robert "Cheerful Charlie" Cheatham
 Submitted by Bel Smith (widow of the late Matthew C. Smith)

Thanks to Wilbur Sharpe and George Juskalian for sending the following information about their participation in a "World War II Oral History Day" in Virginia.

WOODWARD & LOTHROP

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20013

WILBUR B. SHARPE
DIVISIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

"Retired"

Elodie Caldwell
2731 Terry Avenue
Longview Washington 98632-4437

20 May 2009

Dear Elodie,

On 16 April 2009, George Juskalian and I were invited to participate in a World War II Oral HISTORY Day at Rocky Run Middle School in Chantilly Virginia. It was titled " The latest Generation meets the Greatest Generation"

Students were excited to meet us to hear about our experiences with the US Army in North Africa and our subsequent time spent as a German POW during World War II.

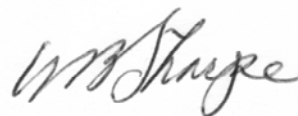
Nearly 100 guests were interviewed by the students who gained information not available in History books. Many "thank you" notes were received by us not only from students but from their many teachers.

We are enclosing photos of us being interviewed and in the presence of these thoroughly delightful young students. You may want to include these photos in one of your future Items.

It was a wonderful experience for all who participated and much appreciated by the teachers. We look forward to WWII oral History day 2010.

Warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,



May 8th, 2009

Mr. Wilbur Sharpe
21065 Cardinal Pond Terrace
Ashburn, VA 20147

Dear Mr. Sharpe,

Thank you for your recent participation in our World War II oral history day—"The Latest Generation Meets the Greatest Generation" at Rocky Run Middle School. The students were excited to meet you and hear about your experiences with the U.S. Army in North Africa and subsequent time as a POW during World War II. In this the age of materialism and of multimillionaire sports and music stars, it is especially fitting that students have the opportunity to meet the real heroes of another generation, people like you who gave up the security of home and laid aside your future plans and dreams to serve our country in its time of need.

The students used the information gathered from their interviews to create presentations that they gave to the rest of their classmates. As a result, all of the students were able to hear about all of our guests and the experiences that they had during wartime. Students wrote a reflection piece on what they learned from interviewing our World War II guests. We thought that you might like to hear a little of the students' feedback:

- "I learned how it was to have to live every single day fearing and accepting that it could be your last."
- "I learned that even though it was a terrible war, there are still good and funny memories."
- "Every single thing they did to preserve America's Freedom is appreciated"
- "I really understand "the Greatest Generation" nickname now. Not only did they have to risk their lives, but they had to give up their dreams to do it."
- "How much of an honor it is to speak to the people who made history"

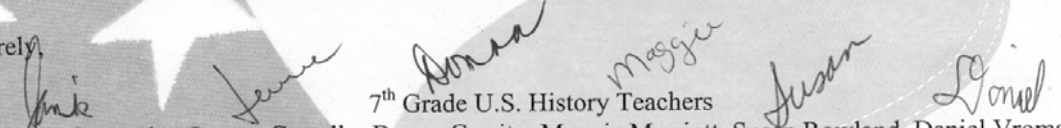
Included in this packet are some thank you notes from the groups that had the opportunity to interview you. We can't possibly include everything that the students wrote, but the enclosed papers and quotes should give you a window into what students did with the information from your eyewitness accounts of World War II. We have also included some pictures that were taken at the event, we hope that they bring back fond memories of our day together! The students and teachers are grateful to you not only for your time, but also for your openness to discuss how World War II affected you, your family, and the United States as a whole.

Thanks to you and our other guests, World War II "came alive" in a way that a textbook will never be able to transmit. And, in a very real sense, your visit helped to fulfill the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt who said

"We have faith that future generations will know that here, in the middle of the twentieth century, there came a time when men of good will found a way to unite, and produce, and fight to destroy the forces of ignorance, and intolerance, and slavery, and war."

Thanks again for your time and efforts. We hope that you will honor us with your presence again next year!

Sincerely,


Jamie Sawatzky, Jeanne Costello, Donna Garrity, Maggie Marriott, Susan Rowland, Daniel Vroman

7th Grade U.S. History Teachers

Rocky Run Middle School

Chantilly, VA

703-802-7723

jamie.sawatzky@fcps.edu

6604 Ashmere WWII
Centreville, VA 20120
May 20, 2009

Mr. Jamie Sawatzky
Rocky Run Middle School
4400 Stringfellow Road
Chantilly, VA 20151

Dear Jamie and Colleagues,

Thank you for the packet of World War II Oral History Day 2009 memorabilia. Where do you find the time and patience to individualize all the letters to us participants? Thanks, too, for the photos. And pairing me with Wilbur Sharpe, my good friend and POW comrade, made the interviews more enjoyable and, I believe, more productive.

I was greatly impressed and appreciative with all the thoughtful cards, notes and essays from the students. In fact, this year's response from them struck me as more eager and mature, as if they didn't want to miss anything because soon it might be gone beyond recall as in the presciently reflective poem, *Fading*, written by student Josephine Kihiu.

As I wrote in my previous letter, I take great pleasure in once again thanking and commending everyone associated with the memorable day. And I wish this time to single out my most pleasant and attentive escort, AriAnna Berndt-Evans. I fondly return to her what she wrote to me: "I know that I will never forget meeting and getting to know you."

I look forward to WWII Oral History Day 2010; meanwhile, may I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

George Juskalian

Copy to Wilbur Sharpe



Pictured with students and seated are l-r: George Juskalian and Wilbur Sharpe



Attention Purple Heart Recipients!

In 2007, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor was opened in New Windsor, N.Y. This great facility is dedicated to collecting and preserving the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service. This is done through the Hall of Honor's "Roll of Honor" database. To sign up, simply visit the website, www.thepurpleheart.com.

Once you have accessed the webpage, there is a link for enrollment. In addition to your information, the Hall of Honor requests an optional photograph to be sent in with your packet.



(Thanks to Michelle Craig, daughter of William Higgins, for sharing this information.)

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.



Our veterans are national treasures and you surely honor them as such. Such thanks we have for your fine labors. ~ **The Bickers Family, Wilmette & Prospect Heights IL**

I have just read on e-mail your Spring Edition of Oflag 64. I just marvel at all the information you and your assistants compile for the information and INSPIRATION we other "Kriegies" read and enjoy. It really shows a lot of DEDICATION that you prepare for our enjoyment. ~ **Helen Chappell, Kaufman TX**

Thank you so much for the lovely ITEM. It looks great; you do such good work. ~ **Julie Gionfriddo, Ft. Collins CO**

Ray and I cannot thank you enough for all the hard work you put into the Item, keeping everyone updated. ~ **Ray and Nancy Klinkenborg, Rock Rapids IA**

Thank you for all your help. ~ **Evelyn Korber, Cheyenne WY**

Keep up the good work, Elodie. I think you are doing an excellent job (you and helpers). The ITEM looks great. ~ **Lucy Lussenden, Livonia MI**

I appreciate your time and devotion to the ITEM newsletter and the Oflag 64 website. ~ **Lana Farber LeVine, Strasburg VA**

You're doing a great job with the ITEM! Keep up the good work! ~ **Robert W. Rivers, Orcutt CA**

Your considerable efforts for "Oflag 64" is very much appreciated. ~ **James N. Yamazaki, White Salmon WA**

First, I want to let you know how much the newsletter that you put together means to us. My wife and I enjoy reading the interesting articles and items that you put together very much. Keep up the great work Elodie - you are doing a bang up good job! ~ **Orpha T. Ziegler, Dallas TX**

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

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. God Bless you. ~ **Ellie Bertrand, Baton Rouge LA**

I am married to the son of Louis Otterbein. We have much info in a huge box regarding the captivity. He is the tall man in back on the left of the middle picture of your website header. My daughter, Laura, who is 13, is studying WWII and happened to find your site with his picture. Wow! ~ **Ann Hart-Otterbein, Bremen ME**

I know the support you are doing for the Oflag database and all the things people don't even think about must use up a lot of your time. Great job. ~ **John Paull, Ridgecrest CA**

I just want to take a moment to thank you and your family for the great work on this web site and bringing these folks, that endured during this dark time in history, together to celebrate life. ~ **Francis Robichaud, Jupiter FL**

You and your family have done a MAGNIFICENT job on the website. I can only imagine the amount of time it has taken ya'll to make this a reality. We all appreciate it more than you will ever know. ~ **Ellen Warthen, Atlanta GA**

Congratulations on a super web site. You all have done a great job. It is so easy to navigate and will be a great reference tool for everyone. ~ **Judy Whorley Winkle, Gallatin TN**

The website is really wonderful. ~ **Deborah Ziegler**

New Visitors to our Oflag 64 Web Site

Victoria L. Herring – Daughter of the late Kriegy Clyde E. Herring
Francis R. Robichaud – Nephew of the late Kriegy Rodney F. Cloutman
Ann Hart-Otterbein – Daughter-in-Law of the late Kriegy Louis Otterbein
William F. Wenzel – Family Connection to Szubin



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-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. To find Looking for Lost Men, click on the link at the bottom of the POW Database page. To find the Tribute to TF Baum, click on the Archives page.

Original Roster-Oflag 64	POW Database
The Oflag 64 Directory	POW Database
The Men of Oflag 64	POW Database
Hammelburg Roster	POW Database
Tribute to TF Baum	Archives/POW Stories/Brave Young Men

WRITE DIRECTLY TO THESE CONTACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A Grand Tour of Russia to Odessa, Winter ~ 1945 by Herb Garris, edited by Clarence Meltesen. Now available on the Oflag 64 website (www.oflag64.org), found under Archives/POW Stories/Escape to Russia

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 association. 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 Phone: 303-987-1833
Lakewood CO 80228-3300 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

James B. Bond

1916-2009

James Boyd "007" Bond, 93, of Waco, Texas, passed away at Huntsville Hospital March 16.

He had resided at South Hampton Nursing Home in Owens Cross Roads since February 2008. Mr. Bond was born in Ewing, Texas, served in the 36th infantry military division during World War II; was a POW in Poland, and retired to Waco.



He is survived by his wife, Frances Bond of Waco; sons, James Hardin Bond of St. Louis and Gary Neal Bond of Madison; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. Friday at Sherwood Baptist Church, 6600 Old Madison Pike N.W., Huntsville.

Memorial donations may be made to the YMCA, Red Cross, Sherwood Baptist Church, or Asbury Methodist Church in Madison.

Berryhill Funeral Home is assisting the family.

James L. Cockrell

1918-2009



James Leroy Cockrell, Jr., 90, was born April 22, 1918 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to James Leroy Cockrell, Sr. and Lelene Willson Cockrell, and died February 27, 2009 in Houston, Texas. Jim graduated from Tulsa's Central High School and the University of Illinois, and he did graduate study at the University of Oklahoma. He served as a tank commander with the First Armored Division in North Africa during World War II. He was a POW in Oflag 64 in Poland and a Purple Heart recipient. After the war, he returned to Tulsa and worked



as Vice President of the Ross-Martin Company for many years. Jim was an active member of the Christian Family Movement in both of Tulsa's Church of the Madalene and Christ the King Catholic Church. He was one of the founders of Bishop Kelley High School. Jim was also a member of the Tulsa Opera Chorus. A chemist and geologist, Jim then turned to his love of rocks and spent his later years in St. George, Utah as president of American Gold Corporation before moving to Sugar Land, Texas. Surviving Jim are his loving wife of 68 years, Margaret "Peg" Cockrell of Sugar Land, formerly of Dallas and Tulsa, daughter Anne Matzelle and her husband Wayne of Sugar Land, daughter Mary Johnson of Carrollton, son Bob Cockrell and his wife Marti of Arlington, daughter Jane Davis and her husband Phil of Sherman, brother Gene Cockrell and his wife Peggy of Tulsa, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and brother Ross Cockrell. Jim will be buried April 28, 2009 in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Gabriel Serda

1919-2007



Gabriel Serda passed away Sunday, October 7, 2007 at Rio Grande Regional Hospital at the age of 88 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents Maximo Serda and Petra Zuniga Serda; his stepmother Santos Castillo Serda; his brother Domingo and sister Andrea Serda and Aurora Cantu.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years Coleta; his children Gabriel Jr. (Dinohora), Javier (Imelda+), Esperanza (Jaime+) Garcia, Angel (Rosa), Pat (David) Garcia. He is survived by 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; his brother Ignacio (Beve) and sisters Aurelia (Lita) Dominguez and Paulita (Viro) Villarreal.

Gabriel is owner of Serda's Barber Shop which was established on August 2, 1948 and is still in operation today. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII with the 81st Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Company A. He was captured at Kassarine Pass in Tunisia, North Africa by the Germans and held as a prisoner of war from February 1943 to April 1945. He was a member of the American legion Post 101, Rio Grande Valley Ex-POW Organization and the V.F.W. He was awarded the following medals: EAME Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, American Defense Service Medal, Purple Heart Medal and Prisoner of War (POW) Medal.



Our father came from a very humble upbringing and was a man of strong morals and values who demonstrated these qualities through example. He was a great father, husband and grandfather who was always there for his family. He fulfilled his primary goals in life by providing, protecting and guiding his family. He was very well respected and dearly loved and he will be missed.

Visitation will be held today, Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at Skinner-Silva Funeral Home of Pharr from 4 to 9 p.m. with a rosary to be held at 7 p.m. Funeral mass will be celebrated Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at St. Anne's Catholic Church at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Palm Valley Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Pharr. Services are entrusted to Skinner0Silva Funeral Home of Pharr.

Jean S. Bradford

1920-2009



Jean (Spohn) Bradford, age 88, passed away on Monday, March 9, 2009. She was born in Columbus, Oh. on October 22, 1920. She received her Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. She retired from teaching in the public school system after

years of dedicated service. Jean was an active antique dealer and avid bridge player. She is preceded in death by her father Walter H. Spohn, two loving mothers Myrtle (Taylor) Spohn and Grace (Taylor) Spohn, son Robert Bradford and a daughter-in-law Judy Bradford. Jean is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Otis "Larry" Bradford of Grove City, Oh.; daughters, Lynne (Ken) Brown of London, Oh. and Gail (Dan) Brown of Millersport, Oh.; son, David Bradford of Nelsonville, Oh.; daughter-in-law, Anne Bradford of Bath, Pa.; and a sister, Nancy (William) Petty of Homer, Ga., formerly of Grove City, Oh. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Service will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 1 p.m. at the SCHOEDINGER-NORRIS FUNERAL HOME, 3920 Broadway, Grove City with interment to follow at the Galloway Cemetery. Pastor Jim Blankenship will be officiating. Friends may call on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. and Thursday, March 12, 2009 one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, 269 Hanover Street, Building 3, Hanover, Mass. 02339 or online at www.bafound.org Online condolences may be made by visiting <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=125010915>

