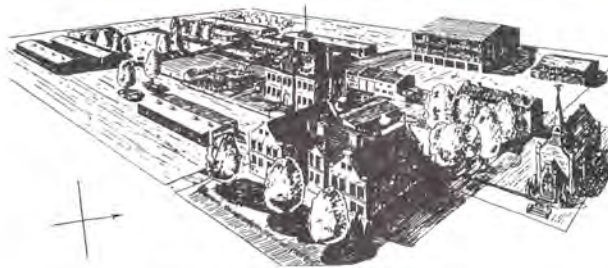


Post Oflag 64 Item



Artist's drawing of Oflag 64 without barbed-wire fences or guard towers
Drawn by Jim Bickers

1ST QUARTER 2014

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Ann Lundy
Robert O'Neill
Tim Stanley – Tulsa World
Robert Thompson Family
Darwyn Walker
Mariusz Winiecki

Oflag 64

Red Skelton's Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance – 1/14/1969

"I had this one teacher. He was the principal of the Harrison School in Vincennes Indiana. To me this was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time anyhow. He had such wisdom and we were all reciting the pledge of allegiance one day and he walked over, this little old teacher - Mr. Lasswell was his name. Mr. Lasswell...and he says, "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word.

I -- Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge -- Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance -- My love and my devotion.

To the Flag -- Our standard. "Old Glory"; a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts "Freedom is everybody's job!" (**of the**)

United -- That means that we have all come together.

States -- Individual communities that have united into 48 great states; 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country – (**Of America**)

And to the Republic -- Republic: a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern; and government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

One Nation -- One Nation, meaning "so blessed by God."

Indivisible -- Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty -- Which is freedom; the right of power to live one's own life without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice -- The principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others.

For All -- For All, which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine. And now boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance. (recited)

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: UNDER GOD. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That is a prayer" -- and that would be eliminated from schools, too?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HGHDfmu5GU>

A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

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.

Barbara & Emmy Lou Bickers
Anne Kreuzer
John Northcutt
Jeff Nutter, Jr.

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



Apologies...

We apologize for a recent problem with our Oflag 64 website that wouldn't allow viewing photos in anything but thumbnail size. That issue has now been fixed. If you were affected by this problem, please try again and if you're able to identify one of your family members or what's going on in any of the photos, we would greatly appreciate having the information. Elodie

* * * * *

Due to some recent updates to our computer and address book, we have found that some of our Oflag 64 family member names have been dropped. We have gone through old emails and restored what we've been able to find. However, we're still learning that some email addresses are yet missing. If you know of someone who falls into this "missing" category, please let us know. We would really appreciate the information. Elodie



If you have anything to submit for print in the ITEM, please contact Elodie at the contact address on the front page of this publication. If you send photos, digital scans of original photos or anything that can be sent in .jpg format is great. If you are unable to scan photos, I would be glad to scan the originals and send them back to you. Documents can be sent in .pdf format. If you are unable to convert them to .pdf format, I would be glad to do so and then send you back the original. Thank you very much. Elodie





MAIL CALL



LTC JOHN ALBREE, USA (Ret.) from Columbus NC (Aide to General John K. Waters) sent holiday greetings with a kind note to me. He commented: "I think it is necessary that you tell others how we feel about you in the Newsletter." *John, I so much appreciated your card and kind words and support. It's a privilege to serve all of you who so faithfully and humbly served our country for so many years.*

EILEEN BAUM from San Diego CA (widow of the late Kriegy Abe Baum) sent a short note recently along with wishes for a happy and healthy new year. She also stated that she would like to receive notification of when the ITEM is published online. *Thanks, Eileen, for your well wishes. We always enjoy hearing from you. We'll be happy to let you know when the ITEM is ready online, and in full color.*



PAT BENDER from Philadelphia PA (daughter of Kriegy Vincent "Doc" Di Francesco) wrote recently with updates on her dad as follows: "He is now 97 and doing pretty well. He has 24-hour care in his own apartment but he still goes downstairs to dinner every night. He is in great spirits & very happy to be able to avoid assisted living. Maria visits him every day & Rosa & I travel to Maryland when we can. Dad still remembers everything about the war and his youth as if it were yesterday. He was recently interviewed for the Capitol Hill History Project (oral histories of those who grew up in Capitol Hill, Washington, DC). His interview will be available soon at: <http://www.capitolhillhistory.org>.

Pat, thank you for the updates on your dad. It's good to hear how our Kriegies are doing and share the information with other Kriegies as well.



BARBARA AND EMMY LOU BICKERS from Wilmette IL (daughter and widow of the late Jim Bickers) recently sent a nice card with compliments on the ITEM. They also sent a contribution to the Postage

Fund and updated us on themselves. They enjoy together the simple pleasures of their Wilmette home, keep up with Wilbur and Mary Sharpe periodically, and rest on the news published in the newsletter. It is a "kinship we feel with our war heroes and families". *Thank you, Barbara and Emmy Lou, for your kind words, for your updates, for your support of our Postage Fund, and for the snapshot. A cropped*

version is included here. It was so good to hear from you again.

PATRICIA BOWERS from New Milford CT (daughter of the late Kriegy James F. Callahan) wrote: "I have recently stumbled across the telegram to my grandparents saying my father was MIA, then another saying he was a POW and then the last which said he was released back to the US custody. Also, I found hand written notes that he took while at camp, things he wrote to keep himself entertained such as recipes and comments about activities and movement." *Thank you, Patricia, for writing. What a great find! We appreciate your willingness to share.*

ANN HART OTTERBEIN from Bremen ME (daughter-in-law of the late Kriegy Lou Otterbein) was recently able to identify Lou in one of the new photos posted on our website. She was also able to share a scan of one of the pages of Lou's war log. *Thanks, Ann, for your continued help with Kriegy identification. We hope one day to have everyone identified but realize as time goes by that it probably will become more and more difficult. Thanks also for the photo.*

MICHAEL HIGGINS from Richmond Hill GA (son of the late Kriegy Martin J. Higgins) recently wrote: "Today, I received your email with the sad news about Gladys and Robert Thompson.

My father served in the 36th in Italy and Southern France. I can only deduce from the information provided that Robert was a Kriegy at OFLAG 64 during the same period as my father. Dad was engaged in the fighting around Remiremont and assumed command of ABLE Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry the evening before the capture of St. Am , the next day, 24 September 1944. Dad was captured after a desperate stand at Sigolsheim, near Colmar, on 8-9 December 1944, he arrived at OFLAG 64 on Christmas eve, 1944.

Perhaps Robert Thompson met my father at OFLAG 64, as he too made the Winter Death March during January - March 1945. The bulk of the officers from OFLAG 64 were sent to OFLAG XIII-B, Hammelburg. My father, one of the wounded, was sent to STALAG - III A.

I can appreciate the loss the Thompson family must feel. My sister and I buried Mom and Dad at Arlington National Cemetery on 15 May 2007. Please extend my heartfelt condolences to the family. *Thank you, Michael, for the information regarding your father and also about the burial of your parents.*

We know that the Thompson family will appreciate your expression of sympathy as well.



WARREN JONES from Los Angeles CA (son of the late Kriegy Charles L. Jones) wrote with information that after 21 years of having the same home phone land line number and having subsequent problems with an alternate

carrier, he has found it necessary to return to his original carrier but no longer has his original phone number. Please contact me if you need to get a hold of Warren. I can provide his information individually. *Thank you, Warren, for writing and sharing your phone number updates. What a painful process and then to end up with a completely different number! How disappointing!*



LUCINE JUSKALIAN from Centreville VA (widow of the late Kriegy George Juskalian) wrote for information about Robert Galloway's Oflag 64 DVD. We contacted Robert who had just a few copies left. He has since sent them to Lucine. *Lucine,*

thank you for writing and checking on the DVD. They are getting harder and harder to find. Good timing on your part. Our best to you and your family.



LYNN KANAYA from Gig Harbor WA (wife of Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya) sent New Year's greetings and details of their adventures. One was the celebration of the Congressional Gold Medal with Oregon Veterans. She

wrote: "Jimmie considers Portland his home since he grew up and enlisted out of Oregon. The Smithsonian displayed the Congressional Gold Medal at the Oregon Historical Society Museum and the Oregon Legacy Center had a concurrent display honoring the local vets on August 24. This announcement came by postcard from ONE. It put a smile on my face since Jimmie was a 24 yr old 2nd Lt. in the picture and was visiting his sister in San Antonio after release from Oflag 64. He had lost about 40 pounds during the incarceration. I am so proud of Jimmie receiving acknowledgement for his many years of service and sacrifice. Todd Mayberry, Curator, did a wonderful job illustrating the theme and involving the children." (See the photo in the Kriegy News and Information Section of this ITEM.) *Thanks, Lynn, for sharing your greetings with us. It's always good hearing from you and Jimmie. Our WWII Vets, particularly our Oflag 64 Vets were definitely heroes. We greatly appreciate their service.*

ANNE KREUTZER from Woodbridge, VA (daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot) has emailed a few times since the last ITEM. In addition to letting us know that in spite of snow that would shut down



the federal government and cold temperatures that got down into the single digits, they were safe and warm. She also attached a couple of pictures of Arlington in December – "Wreaths across America put lots more wreaths there this year (the Superintendent tells them what Sections to put them in) and Dad's and Nick Rahal's were both included this year. It's a beautiful sight." (See the Kriegy News and Information Section of this ITEM.) In a subsequent email she asked about buying a copy of Robert Galloway's Oflag 64 DVD. *Thanks, Anne, for your continued communications. Email makes it so easy these days. And thank you also for sending the photos of Arlington at Christmas time. How beautiful! Your contribution to the Postage Fund was very much appreciated. We were able to send a copy of the DVD you requested. Hope it arrived in good shape.*



ROBERT LAPLANDER from Waterford WI (author and friend of Oflag 64) reports that his "Wooden Horse" project is finally complete. Information on his book detailing an escape from Stalag Luft III can be

found by searching for THE WOODEN HORSE, THE TRUE STORY on Amazon.com. *Congratulations, Robert, on your achievement. We appreciate the time and attention you devoted to this very important work. Thanks for keeping us informed.*



ROBERT LEE (son of Kriegy Royal Lee) recently contacted us and asked to be added to our email list. He also sent us Royal's new mailing address. *Thank you, Rob, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. Thank*

you also for the address update of your dad. We remember you from a couple of our previous reunions. Good to hear from you again.



GENE and ROSALIE LIGGETT from Vancouver WA (Kriegy) sent wishes for the New Year by YouTube and by a personal message stating: "May 2014 be a year of good health, memories that uplift you,

friendship, and love." *Thanks, Gene and Rosalie, for the sentiments expressed and sung so beautifully in the YouTube video. Thanks also for your personal message. It's always good to hear from you.*

ANN LUNDY from Lincoln NE (daughter of the late Kriegy John W. Stewart) wrote to inform us of the passing of her dear father on January 15 of this year. Along with that information she sent a copy of his obituary and memorial program. In a subsequent

communication, she asked to be added to our email list and shared that she has been very interested in reading her dad's old letters and looking at his scrapbook. (Please see the TAPS section for the obituary as well as the TAPS section of our website for his name.) *Ann, thank you for writing and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We were definitely saddened to hear of your dad's passing but appreciate the memorial program you sent and will be happy to receive any other information you would like to share as time goes by. We express our sincere sympathies to you and send our thoughts and prayers. These great men are leaving us all too quickly, but they will always be missed and never forgotten.*



PEGGY MARLATT from Prescott AZ

(daughter of the late Kriegy Robert Thompson and late Gladys Thompson) emailed the sad news that both her parents passed away within two weeks of each other. Their obituaries can be found in the Tulsa World online at: <http://www.tulsaworld.com/obituaries/> and in the TAPS section of this ITEM. Correspondence can be directed to Marlene McAllister (another daughter) at 7122 S. Sheridan Rd., Suite 2, Box 573, Tulsa OK 74133. Peggy commented: "our family appreciates all of you and will miss our gatherings." *Thank you, Peggy, for letting us know of the passing of your dear parents. We were truly saddened to hear the news and we know they will be mightily missed. It was a privilege to have known them. They were wonderful people. Our thoughts and prayers as well as heartfelt condolences go to you and your family. Please see the TAPS section of this ITEM for their obituaries as well as the online TAPS section of our website for your father's name.*



MARLENE MCALLISTER from Tulsa OK

(daughter of the late Kriegy Robert Thompson and late Gladys Thompson) emailed that she and the rest of the family would like to thank the Oflag 64 Association for the donation to the Oklahoma State University Foundation. Further she stated: "Mother and Daddy were so proud of the university and its mission. Now we have a 3rd generation student graduating this spring!

Mother and Daddy loved all of you and we came to love you as we started attending the reunions. I hope we can all stay in touch and keep the spirit going. Their grandchildren learned so much from all of you and I believe are better citizens because of the knowledge and "can do" attitude you shared with them.

We had an extraordinary service for them at Fort Gibson National Military Cemetery in Oklahoma. What an honor to see them die together after 65

years of marriage. We are taking a lot of comfort from their great story." *Marlene, thank you for sharing this information with the Oflag 64 family. We know that the wonderful memories you have of them will help strength and sustain you through the ups and downs of life without them. We appreciate the great service they both rendered to others over the years. Their obituaries are included in the TAPS section of this ITEM and your father's name has been added to our online TAPS list.*

MARY MECHAM (daughter of the late Kriegy Merle Meacham) emailed in response to an email query regarding Bernard Opitz. She wrote that there was information on page 25 of Clarence Meltesen's "Roads to Liberation from Oflag 64" book. She commented that her dad was captured in North Africa as well. *Thanks very much, Mary, for sharing what you found from Clarence Meltesen's book. We appreciate your quick response.*

JOHN NORTHCUTT from Demopolis AL (son of the late Kriegy Enoch L. Northcutt, Jr.) wrote for information about the PBS Commentary (Robert Galloway's Oflag 64 DVD) and asked if he might receive a copy. He also asked for any information we might have about his dad. Website information was shared and information provided for the DVD. *Thank you, John, for contacting us and thank you for your contribution to our Postage Fund. We hope you enjoyed the DVD that was sent.*

PETER NOTBOHM (son of the late Kriegy William R. Notbohm) contacted us through our website with information that his passed away on October 12, 2012. (See the TAPS section of this ITEM). He also asked to be added to our email list. *Thank you, Peter, for the TAPS information on your dear father. He has been added to our online TAPS list. No matter when they pass, we still miss them all...such great men! We have also added you to our email list and welcome you to our Oflag 64 family.*

JEFF NUTTER from Vestavia Hills AL (oldest nephew of the late Kriegy Enoch L. Northcutt, Jr. and cousin to John Northcutt) contacted us regarding obtaining a copy of the Oflag 64 DVD. He also sent information about others of his family who served in the military and asked to be added to the email list. *Thanks, Jeff, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. We also appreciate the information about your family. Your contribution to our Postage Fund was very much appreciated. A copy of the DVD was sent. We hope you enjoyed it.*



ROBERT O'NEILL from Prescott AZ

(Kriegy) sent copies of information that Peggy Marlatt sent him regarding her parents, Bob Thompson & Gladys. Among the items she sent was a

Celebration of Life photo, an article about Bob in the Tulsa newspaper, and a short note from Peggy. We have obtained permission to use the article, which is printed in the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM. Another article can be accessed online at: http://www.tulsaworld.com/obituaries/localobituaries/rites-today-for-robert-thompson-world-war-ii-veteran/article_90f4318d-b6b0-5c8c-9659-b430e35aa407.html

Thank you, Bob, for sharing Peggy's information with us as well as other information you send from time to time. It's always good to hear from you.

JAMES OPITZ (Son of the late Kriegy Bernard A. Opitz) is looking for information about his father. He commented: "Dad would have been one of the first "Kriegies" as he was taken prisoner during the conflicts near Kassarine in North Africa." James also asked to be added to our email list. We have sent an email query to the group, but if you have information to share, please let me know and I'll contact James. *Thank you, James, for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 Family. We have received a couple of email responses and hope you'll receive many more. We know it can sometimes be frustrating searching for information, but we hope you'll be able to find the information you seek.*

KAKI ROBERTS (daughter of the late Kriegy Grover C. Roberts) contacted us with TAPS information for her dad. She also asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks, Kaki, for sending the date of your dear father's death. Even though time has passed, we still miss those we love. We have added him to the online TAPS list. We have also added you to our email list and welcome you to our Oflag 64 family.*



JOHN RODGERS, SR. from Pensacola FL (Kriegy) sent New Year's greetings among several other interesting, informative, and enjoyable emails. *John, we appreciate your continued contact and always enjoy your emails. Thanks also for the New Year's greetings and for keeping us in the loop.*

PAUL THRIFFILEY III from LA (son of the late Kriegy Paul Thriffiley, Jr.) reconnected with us after his email address was dropped from our address book following an upgrade. He provided not only a new email address but the death date of his dear father. In a subsequent email, Paul provided death date information for another one of our dear Kriegies. *Thank you, Paul, for contacting us again. What a frustration to lose names. Thanks also for your updates and for the information for our online TAPS list. Your dad's name as well as Robert Breazeale's should now be there.*

DARWYN WALKER from Springfield MO (Kriegy)



recently wrote: "I was one of the few Kriegies who were shot by a German Guard during our march from Hammelburg to Moosburg. A Lt. Themey and I attempted to escape and a guard some 100 yards away shot me in the face. We rejoined the march, they patched me up. It became my 2nd purple heart. My daughter (ret.) worked in the military archives in St. Louis and researched my records and she and my son created the wall display enclosed." - Darwyn sent compliments and said he would be 95 in May and plans to read many more of the Oflag ITEMS. *Thanks, Darwyn, for the photo which is included in the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM. Thanks also for your kind words and for your service. Congratulations on 95 years!*

PAM WATERS (daughter of the late Kriegy Bertrum Wheeler) in response to James Opitz, wrote that her father was in North Africa as well and said she would look through her father's information for anything she could find. *Thank you, Pam, for contacting us so quickly after the query. The more eyes we have searching, the better.*

SHANNON WOODBURY from Washington State (friend of Oflag 64) contacted us through our website after sitting across from my husband, Bill, and I on the train. While visiting, we told her about the Oflag 64 website and our involvement with Oflag 64 and exchanged information about family members and their WWII experiences. We ended up with each other's contact information and voilà. She complimented our site and asked to be added to our email list. *Thanks Shannon for contacting us and welcome to our Oflag 64 family. It was such a pleasure visiting with you on the train. We hope to hear from you again.*



DR. MARIUSZ WINIECKI from Szubin Poland (researcher and friend of Oflag 64) sent a link to a Polish TV report about Oflag 64. Please click on the following link and then use the Google Translator to read the report in English.

<http://www.palukitv.pl/teksty/przestrzen-lokalna/inne/21347-codziennosc-jencow-oflagu.html>

The history of Oflag 64 and its place in Polish history is very important, not to glorify the suffering of those who were captive there but to learn from those events and remember those who served during those years. (Please see photos in the Kriegy News and Information Section.) *Thank you so much, Mariusz, for sharing your research and various articles and reports about Oflag 64 with us. We agree that the history of Oflag 64 is a vital part of Polish history and that information about the camp should be preserved for future generation, both Polish and American.*

KRIEGY NEWS AND INFORMATION


These photos were sent by Anne Kreutzer after a December visit to Arlington. Both names on the gravemarkers are of our former Kriegies. Nathaniel Hoskot is Anne's father and Nick Rahal is Gail Rahal's husband. Thanks Anne!



The photos below were sent by Mariusz Winięcki and accompanied the story about his television interview. Please check the link under his name in the Mail Call section for more information.




This memorial program of John "Jack" Stewart was sent to us by his daughter Ann Lundy.



John W. Stewart, 93, of Lincoln, known to his family and friends as "Jack", died January 15, 2014. A lifetime resident of Lincoln, he practiced law here for 42 years, and during those years played an active role in community organizations, serving at various times as chairman of the governing boards of Nebraska Wesleyan University, Bryan Memorial Hospital, Lancaster County Red Cross, United Way, Lincoln Bar Association and Saint Paul United Methodist Church, and on the national board of governors of the American Red Cross. As a student at the University of Nebraska he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma and Order of the Coif for his scholastic achievements. For his service as an infantry rifle platoon leader in Europe during World War II he was awarded the Combat Infantryman medal, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. After retiring from the practice of law in 1988, he wrote a book about his World War II experiences, including those as a P.O.W., using pseudonyms for himself (William D. Stevens) and others. Jack is survived by his wife Jo and by their three children: Mack (Thurid), of Munich, Germany; John, of Sedalia, CO; and Ann Lundy, of Lincoln, and three grandchildren, Jessica, Jeremy and Melissa; sisters-in-law, Jacque Stewart and Barbara James; and several nieces and nephews; his brothers Don, Jr. and Roger, predeceased him.

arrangements entrusted to Roper and Sons Funeral Services

Celebrating the Life of
John "Jack" W. Stewart



*Taken from John's book,
"Justifiable Pride"*

Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud
Under the bludgeoning of chance
My head is bloody but unbowed.

It matters not how strait the gate
How charged with punishment the scroll
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul.

*Photograph: The castle in Diez where Jack spent time
as a prisoner of war in 1944.*

In Loving Memory
John W. Stewart
"Jack"
September 3, 1920 - January 15, 2014

Memorial Service
11:00 am Saturday, February 1, 2014
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
Officiating, Pastor David Lux

Music
"America The Beautiful"
"Abide With Me" "Ave Maria" - Adrienne Dickson
Organist, C. Richard Morris

Memorials
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
Favorite Charity



This was sent by Peggy Marlatt, daughter of Bob and Gladys Thompson,
to Bob O'Neill who then sent them to us.



Robert and Gladys Thompson

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
JANUARY 24, 2014



In Memory of Bob and Gladys

Donations may be made to:

OSU Foundation

PO Box 1749

Stillwater, OK 74076-1749

or

www.osugiving.com

Select:

-GIVE NOW

-SEARCH HERE

Please note in comments

'In Memory of Robert and Gladys
Thompson'

Thank you from the Thompson
Family



We have received permission from Tim Stanley from the Tulsa World to reprint his article with the accompanying photo about Bob Thompson. It follows on the next page.

Robert Thompson ~ 1921-2014

FORMER POW HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR FELLOW WWII SERVICEMEN

*After being taken prisoner in France, he survived a march between camps.

By Tim Stanley – World Staff Writer

More than 350 miles to cover, all of it on foot. Temperatures hitting 20 below zero.

It was enough to make 1st Lt. Bob Thompson reconsider a prisoner-of-war camp's virtues.

Sometimes he even wished he was back there.

But in spite of everything, Thompson persevered.

The POW, who had been captured by the Germans a few months earlier, not only survived the brutal march to a new camp but also lived to see the war's end.

It helped that he was in good company.

Throughout World War II and his captivity, his fellow servicemen were always a marvel to him.

"I never saw a one of those guys refuse to do his duty, regardless of how dangerous it was going to be," he told the Tulsa World more than 60 years later. "And they did it willingly and cheerfully. They would volunteer to do it. I was amazed by it then, and I'm still amazed by it."

Robert Taylor Thompson, a longtime Tulsan, died Jan. 16 in The Woodlands, Texas. He was 92.

In a joint service set for 10 a.m. Friday, Thompson and his late wife, Gladys Thompson, will be interred together at Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

Thompson made his home in Tulsa for 42 years before moving to Texas in 2011.

Two of the servicemen he admired most were related to him: his older brothers, Lt. Col. Paul Thompson and Maj. Pershing Thompson.

There were seven Thompson brothers altogether. They grew up in Stigler, and six served in the military.

But of the our who served in World War II, Bob and his brother William were the only ones to return. Both older brothers were killed in action.

All these years later, "He still talked about them all time," Marlene McAllister said of her father. "Both brothers were West Point grads, and he was very proud of them and their achievements."

Thompson's own war story ended more happily, although not without plenty of drama.

Serving with the Army's 132nd Field Artillery, he fought in Anzio, Italy, and southern France before he was captured by German forces in August 1944 near Remiremont, France. From there, he was taken to Szubin, Poland, and Oflag 64 prison camp.

The only German prison camp for American ground-force officers, Oflag 64 included many who were captured during the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Thompson's stay was relatively short. With Soviet forces closing in, he and all other captives who were fit were evacuated on foot.

Their destination, Parchim, Germany, was 355 miles away. Being January, the conditions were brutal. Wrapping towels or undershirts around their heads – "about the only things showing were your eyeballs" – the prisoners kept moving, Thompson said.

He recalled sleeping in barn lofts, burrowing deep into the hay to try to stay warm.

From Parchim, the POWs were transported by train to Hammelburg, Germany, and camp Oflag XIII-B.

Just a few weeks later, the camp was the site of what came to be known as the Hammelburg Raid, an ill-fated liberation attempt ordered by Gen. George Patton. Most of the task force members sent to do the job were captured.

Thompson and others tried to fight their way out but were quickly subdued. Removed to other camps, they were liberated or good in April 1945.

Thompson's family was happy to have him home. He had been listed as missing and his parents were devastated at the thought of losing a third son.

"Daddy said they had had to leave town for a while, the strain was so much," McAllister said.

After the war, Thompson completed a mechanical engineering degree at Oklahoma State University. For much of his career, he ran his own business, including retail gasoline marketing, land surveying and engineering consultation. (continued on the next page)

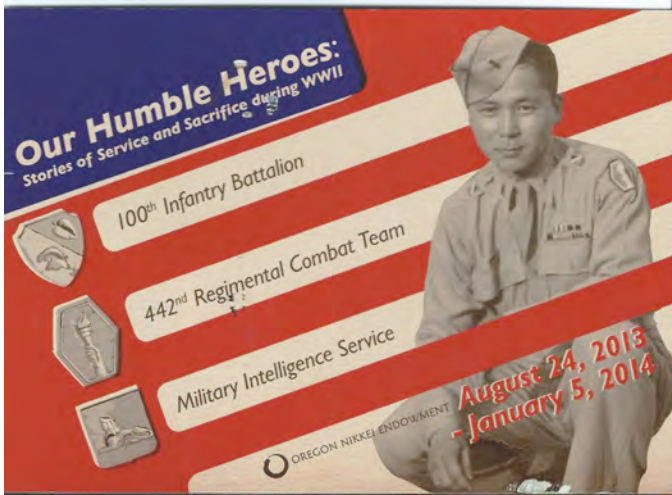


In retirement, he volunteered for the Tulsa Police Department, putting his engineer's drawing skills to use for homicide investigators.

Thompson was active with the Oflag 64 Ex-POW Association, editing its newsletter and attending annual reunions, including one he proudly helped host in Tulsa.

Thompson's survivors include his four children, Marlene McAllister, Peggy Marlatt, Nancy Wyatt and Robert Thompson Jr.; six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

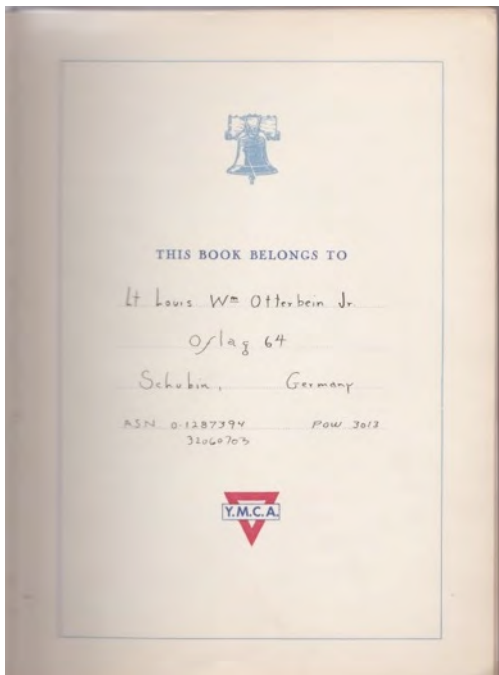
* * * * *



This photo was sent by Lynn Kanaya and refers to one of the adventures she and Jimmie had during 2013.



This photo was sent by Darwyn Walker and refers to the awards display done by his children.



This photo was sent by Ann Hart Otterbein, a page from Lou Otterbein's War Log.

COMMENTS

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

Thanks, as always, for all of your information and keeping us connected. ~ *Patricia Bowers, New Milford CT*

THANK YOU!

We commend you for the excellence of the Oflag 64 ITEM newsletter. ~ *Barbara and Emmy Lou Bickers, Wilmette IL*

It is wonderful that you are helping the history live on. ~ *Ann Lundy*

OFLAG 64 WEB CONNECTION

Awesome Site - What a cool site, very interesting. It is great "full screen". ~ *Shannon Woodbury, WA*

New visitors to our website –

Suzie Kolber – Friend of Oflag 64 (ObituariesHelp.org writer)

Robert Lee – Son of Kriegy Royal Lee

Ann Lundy – Daughter of the late Kriegy John "Jack" W. Stewart

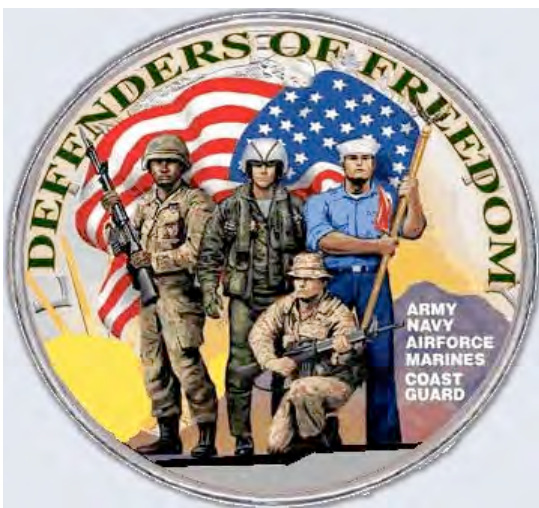
John Northcutt – Son of the late Kriegy Enoch L. Northcutt, Jr.

Peter Notbohm – Son of the late Kriegy William R. Notbohm

Jeff Nutter – Nephew of the late Kriegy Enoch L. Northcutt, Jr.

James Opitz – Son of the late Kriegy Bernard A. Opitz

Kaki Roberts – Daughter of the late Kriegy Grover C. Roberts



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. New and used copies are often available from online sites.

If you become aware that any of these publications are no longer available, please let us know.

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/B0007E4UA>
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 Massacre** (Beta or VHS). Ray Towers, Jr., 25105 Vista Greens Court, Hayward CA 94541, 415-582-4871 - *This video doesn't appear to be available anywhere, but you can view Katyn videos using the following links:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6pfczWJAbE>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y8VNDOBGJM>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35qbDxZcjD0>
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. **Kriegsgefangener 3074 (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, 1127 Hidden Cove Drive, Mt. Pleasant SC 29464-9046, (\$29.95 plus \$5 S&H - Please make checks payable to Robert Galloway)
12. **Raid! The Untold Story of Patton's Secret Mission** by Richard Baron, Major Abe Baum, and Richard Goldhurst (paperback) http://www.amazon.com/Raid-Untold-Pattons-Secret-Mission/dp/0440236096/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254190748&sr=1-1

13. **A Ramble Through My War** by Charles F. 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
14. **The Escape Factory** by Lloyd Shoemaker. Story of a secret organization in Wash DC that maintained contact with all POWs in WWII. St Martins Press. New York NY (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
15. **The Road To War** by Steven Burgauer. Based on the diary and notes of Captain William C. Frodsham, Jr.: a riveting first-person account of duty and drill, courage and capture. (Available on Amazon.com) http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_15?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer&prefix=The+Road+to+War
16. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE-11/8/2013) http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1
17. **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
18. **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
19. **Tours of Duty: World War II Veterans Personal Stories** by Eleanor Bertrand. Includes stories of Jimmie Kanaya from Oflag 64, Martin Jones from Hammelburg, 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

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.

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. Don Kanners, 3205 Jennella Dr, Commerce TWP MI 48390-1619, dkanners@comcast.net

Roads to Liberation by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for approximately \$6 per copy shipping fee. Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.)

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 at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Judy Fletcher.)

William R. Notbohm

1921 ~ 2012



Lt. Col. William R. Notbohm, 91, of Fond du Lac, passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family, on Sunday, October 21, 2012. William was born June 14, 1921 in Sullivan, WI, son of Dr. DeLou

R. and Matilda (Horn) Notbohm.

On February 12, 1943 William married Letitia McCambridge, the love of his life, of White Lake, WI.

During his 24 years of military service, Lt. Col. William Notbohm was awarded the Silver Star, 3 Bronze Stars for Valor, Combat Infantry Badge, 3 Purple Hearts, and the POW medal, among many other distinguished awards. His years of military service included WWII and the Korean War.



William is survived by Letitia, his wife of 69 years; three sons; William Richard III and wife Cindy of Pittsburgh, PA., Douglas Richard and wife Marcy of Eau Claire, Peter Verner of Fond du Lac; three daughters, Jane Notbohm of Fond du Lac, Barbara Derlein of Houston, TX and Mary Forbes of Fond du Lac; grandchildren; Julie Daffin, Maryann Daffin, Timothy Williams, Jonathan Williams, Heather Notbohm, William Notbohm IV, Andrew Notbohm, Peter Forbes, Donald W. Lautenschlager, Susanna Blanchard, Peter W. Notbohm, Kristina Williams and twelve great grandchildren.

Private family services will be held at the Cross of Calvary Cremation Garden, in Fond du Lac at a future date.

Zacherl Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family.

www.zacherlfuneralhome.com

See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fdlreporter/obituary.aspx?n=lt-col-william-r-notbohm&pid=160613114#sthash.NoYqQtAx.dpuf>

John W. "Jack" Stewart

1921 ~ 2014



John W. "Jack" Stewart, 93, of Lincoln, known to his family and friends as "Jack", died January 15, 2014. A lifetime resident of Lincoln, he practiced law here for 42 years, and during those years played an active role

in community organizations, serving at various times as chairman of the governing boards of Nebraska Wesleyan University, Bryan Memorial Hospital, Lancaster County Red Cross, United Way, Lincoln Bar Association and Saint Paul United Methodist Church, and on the national board of governors of the American Red Cross.

As a student at the University of Nebraska he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma and Order of the Coif for his scholastic achievements. For his service as an infantry rifle platoon leader in Europe during World War II he was awarded the Combat Infantryman medal, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

After retiring from the practice of law in 1988, he wrote a book about his World War II experiences, including those as a P.O.W., using pseudonyms for himself (William D. Stevens) and others.



Jack is survived by his wife, Jo and by their three children, Mack (Thurid) of Munich, Germany, John of Sedalia, Colo., and Ann Lundy, of Lincoln; and three grandchildren, Jessica, Jeremy and Melissa; sisters-in-law, Jacque Stewart and Barbara James; and several nieces and nephews; his brothers, Don, Jr. and Roger, predeceased him.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 1, at 11 am, at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M Street with Rev. David Lux officiating. Memorials may be given to the Saint Paul United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 1144 M Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 or to any other charitable organization. Condolences may be left at roperandsons.com

Published online at:

http://journalstar.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/stewart-john-w-jack/article_26fc5ac7-c087-52db-a7ba-35a4431bf863.html#comments

Robert T. Thompson

1921 ~ 2014



Robert Taylor Thompson, age 92, passed away peacefully on January 16th in The Woodlands, Texas. Robert was born on November 29, 1921 in Dewar, Oklahoma. Robert was the son of William and Grace

Ann Thompson of Stigler, Oklahoma.

Robert was a 1st Lieutenant Forward Observer in a Field Artillery unit of the 36th Division in World War Two. Having served in campaigns in Anzio, Italy and southern France, he was captured by the Germans in August 1944 near Remiremont, France and was held as a Prisoner of War in Poland and Germany until the end of the war in Europe. He played a prominent role in the 'Hammelburg Raid' that took place at Oflag XIII-B in Germany in the closing days of the war.



Upon returning home from Europe in 1945, Robert received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1948. Robert married Gladys Marie Carter in 1948 in Lubbock, Texas. After Robert and Gladys were married, they moved to Odessa, Texas and then Bartlesville, Oklahoma where Robert worked for Phillips 66 as a process engineer until 1955. He then spent the next 40 years self-employed with businesses ranging from retail gasoline marketing, land surveying, and consulting engineering.

Robert was the last surviving son from a family of seven boys raised in Stigler, Oklahoma. Of the seven sons, three were West Point graduates and two of those were killed in action in World War Two (Lt Col Paul Thompson and Major Pershing Thompson).

Robert and Gladys had four children and lived in Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. He lived the past 42 years in Tulsa, Oklahoma before moving to Texas to be near family. After retirement, he was very active serving as

newsletter editor and attending annual reunions with friends and family from the Oflag 64 Ex-POW Association, which is a group named for the prison camp where they were held in Poland during World War Two. He also volunteered for the Tulsa Police Department.

He is survived by his children Marlene McAllister, Peggy (Charles) Marlatt, Nancy (Mark) Wyatt, and Robert (Theresa) Thompson Jr.; grandchildren Stacey, Eric, Kendall, Derek, Taylor, Kailey, and great grandson Tanner(Catfish).

A joint burial for Robert and his wife Gladys will be at Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Fort Gibson Oklahoma January 24th at 10:00am. To honor Robert's life, the family requests donations be made to the Oklahoma State University Foundation in lieu of flowers. Please make checks payable to the OSU Foundation and mail to OSU Foundation, PO Box 1749, Stillwater, OK, 74076- 1749. Donations may also be made online at www.osugiving.com by selecting "GIVE NOW", "DESIGNATION-MEMORIAL FUND". Please note, "in memory of Robert Thompson" in the "COMMENT" section.

Online obituary published 1/21/14 at:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/obituaries/localobituaries/robert-taylor-thompson/article_c4770fb2-829f-11e3-b32a-001a4bcf6878.html

Gladys M. Thompson

1925 ~ 2014



Gladys Marie (Carter) Thompson, age 88, passed away peacefully on January 4, 2014 in The Woodlands, TX. Gladys was born on July 24, 1925 in Blair, OK. Gladys was

the daughter of Thomas and Anise Carter of Altus, OK.

Gladys attended school in Friendship, OK and was a graduate of Oklahoma State University in 1947 with a degree in Personnel Administration. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and the Honor Society at OSU. She worked at Phillips Petroleum and was also an accomplished seamstress.

Gladys was a member of the OSU Alumni Association, OFLAG 64 Association, and American Association of University Women.

Gladys married Robert Taylor Thompson in 1948 in Lubbock, TX. They had four children and lived in Oklahoma and Arkansas. She lived the past 42 years in Tulsa before moving to Texas to be near family.

She enjoyed her time as a volunteer at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa and playing bridge with friends. She cherished her time with family and was an excellent cook. She attended the Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Robert; children, Marlene McAllister, Peggy (Charles) Marlatt, Nancy (Mark) Wyatt, and Robert (Theresa) Thompson Jr.; grandchildren, Stacey, Eric, Kendall, Derek, Taylor, Kailey; and great-grandson, Tanner.

Burial will be at Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Fort Gibson, OK. A memorial service will be held in Tulsa at a later date. To honor Gladys Marie's life, the family requests donations be made to the Oklahoma State University Foundation in lieu of flowers. Please make checks payable to the OSU Foundation and mail to OSU Foundation, PO Box 1749, Stillwater, OK, 74076-1749. Donations may also be made online at www.osugiving.com by selecting "GIVE NOW", "DESIGNATION-MEMORIAL FUND". Please note, "in memory of Gladys Marie Thompson" in the "COMMENT" section.

Online obituary published 1/19/14 at:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/obituaries/localobituaries/gladys-marie-thompson/article_340ae89a-810f-11e3-98da-001a4bcf6878.html



TAPS

"Taps" is a musical piece sounded at dusk, and at funerals, particularly by the U.S. military. It is sounded during flag ceremonies and funerals, generally on bugle or trumpet, and often at Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Girl Guide meetings and camps. The tune is also sometimes known as "Butterfield's Lullaby", or by the first line of the lyric, "Day is Done".

Etymology - *The term originates from the Dutch term **taptoe**, meaning "close the (beer) taps (and send the troops back to camp)". "Military tattoo" comes from the same origin.*

History - *The tune is a variation of an earlier bugle call known as the **Scott Tattoo** which was used in the U.S. from 1835 until 1860, and was arranged in its present form by the **Union Army Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield**, an **American Civil War general and Medal of Honor recipient** who commanded the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division in the **V Army Corps** of the **Army of the Potomac** while at **Harrison's Landing, Virginia**, in July 1862 to replace a previous French bugle call used to signal "lights out". Butterfield's bugler, **Oliver Wilcox Norton**, of **East Springfield, Pennsylvania**, was the first to sound the new call. Within months, "Taps" was used by both **Union and Confederate forces**. It was officially recognized by the **United States Army** in 1874.*

*"Taps" concludes many **military funerals** conducted with honors at **Arlington National Cemetery**, as well as hundreds of others around the **United States**. The tune is also sounded at many memorial services in **Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater** and at **grave sites** throughout the **cemetery**.*

*Captain **John C. Tidball**, **West Point Class of 1848**, started the custom of playing taps at **military funerals**. In early July 1862 at **Harrison's Landing**, a corporal of **Tidball's Battery A, 2nd Artillery**, died. He was, **Tidball** recalled later, "a most excellent man." **Tidball** wished to bury him with full military honors, but, for military reasons, he was refused permission to fire three guns over the grave. **Tidball** later wrote, "The thought suggested itself to me to sound taps instead, which I did. The idea was taken up by others, until in a short time it was adopted by the entire army and is now looked upon as the most appropriate and touching part of a **military funeral**." As **Tidball** proudly proclaimed, "**Battery A** has the honor of having introduced this custom into the service, and it is worthy of historical note."*

*It became a standard component to **U.S. military funerals** in 1891.*

*"Taps" is sounded during each of the 2,500 **military wreath ceremonies** conducted at the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** every year, including the ones held on **Memorial Day**. (More info on Wikipedia.com)*