

The

Post Oflag 64 Item

Nearly Everybody
Reads The ITEM

Oflag 64's Home
Newspaper

“Get Wise – ITEM-ize”

1st Quarter 2021

Good Ole USA

Of Undetermined Worth

Editor/Printing and Mailing

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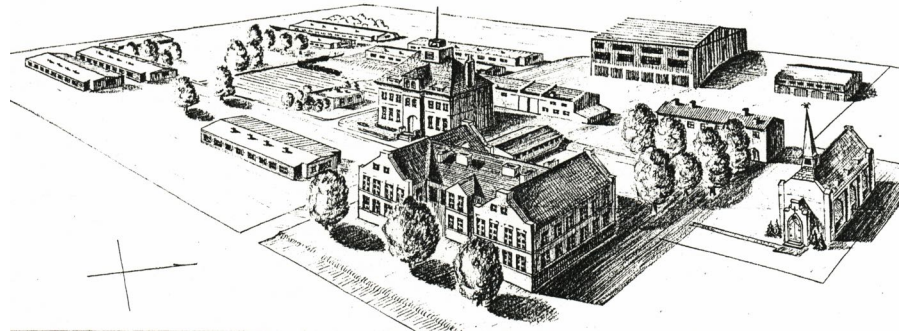
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Contributors to this issue

Janice Parks Brown
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Barney Herrera
Rosa Di Francesco Lee
Marianne Liggett Merriam
Ann Chappell Rogers
Ted Roggen
Dave Stewart
Paul Thriffiley III
Anne Meltesen Trujillo

We apologize to any others we may have overlooked and thank all who have contacted us.

NOTE: The Oflag 64 Remembered website and the Post Oflag 64 ITEM are independent entities and do not operate under the auspices of any other organization.



Drawing by Jim Bickers, shown without barbed wire fences or guard towers

Calling All “Kriegy Kids and Grandkids”

Research is being done in all areas of “Kriegy Life” for the new Museum in Szubin, and your help would be invaluable. Everything “Kriegy” is needed for the Museum, so everything we can do to help prepare is important.

Volunteers are urgently needed in the following areas:

- writing Kriegy biographies (more writers are needed)
- researching websites for Kriegy obituaries and photos
- researching websites for Kriegy interviews
- researching websites for Kriegy articles written either by or about them
- researching Find-A-Grave and Billion Graves websites for deceased Kriegies
- researching Ancestry.com, Veterans History Project records and military websites for Kriegy information
- locating Kriegy books or writings



WE NEED YOU

If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity, especially during these days of “isolation”, and if you have a little bit of time each week to devote to researching (maybe an hour a day, or whatever you can devote), your assistance would be greatly appreciated. What a great service to render! Feel free to choose one or more areas to work in.

Please consider giving of your time to help in this effort. What an honor it is to do this for our Kriegy Patriots and Heroes. To volunteer, contact Elodie at the street or email address at the left of this page.

Our best to you always,
Elodie/Bill Caldwell, ITEM Editor/Webmaster
www.oflag64.us



A Little Company Business

Financial Contributions

There is now more than one way to contribute to Oflag 64 related funds.



For contributions to the **Postage Fund ONLY** (which not only covers the cost of printing and mailing the ITEM to our remaining Kriegies or their widows, but also pays for running the Oflag 64 website), please make your checks payable to Oflag 64 Postage Fund, and send them to:

Bret Job

2801 SW 46th St
Cape Coral FL 33914-6026

OR

Elodie Caldwell

2731 Terry Ave
Longview WA 98632-4437

1st Qtr. PF Contributions

None this quarter

For financial contributions to the **future museum only**, please write your check to:

Friends of Oflag 64, Inc.
12768 Turberville Lane
Oak Hill, VA 20171-2214

OR

donate **ONLINE** at:

<https://friendsofotlag64.org/contact-us>

You can also access the donation page on the Polish-American Foundation website at:

<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en/foundation/support-us>

These funds are separate from the Postage Fund and will be used to

help support the future Museum in various ways.

THANKS to all who have so very generously donated to our various Oflag 64 funds over time.

Thank You!

Researching Records



Oflag 64 Remembered researchers would like more information on Oflag 64 Kriegies, specifically information about those who were captured together and/or marched out or escaped together. Some marched to Hammelburg, some to Luckenwalde, some to Moosburg, and possibly other places. Knowing the names of those who were together at different times will help create a more complete story. If you have Kriegy diary, war log, journal, notebook or book written by your Kriegy which might tell his story more fully, please contact me at: elodie@oflag64.us. Please also consider either donating or scanning these items.

Donating Artifacts

If you're looking for a place to donate Kriegy records and memorabilia, the Polish-American Foundation in Szubin would appreciate receiving them. Please contact Dave Stewart, our Artifacts Committee Chairman, at: dslvtx@gmail.com for more information. Donations should be sent to him with two copies of the donation form (included at

the end of this ITEM) to the address listed on the form.

If you have already donated artifacts, thank you so much. Descriptions will be written for each of them (with your help regarding information about the artifacts). The artifacts and write-ups will eventually be used in displays in the future museum.

Please also look for artifact descriptions being posted on the Friends of Oflag 64, Inc. website at:

<https://friendsofotlag64.org/artifacts>

Check for museum news and other related information being posted on the Foundation website at:

<http://www.szubinpowcamps.org/en/>

Future "Foundation" and "Friends" Information

As was mentioned in the last ITEM, the Polish-American Foundation, jointly with Friends of Oflag 64, Inc. will begin publishing a regular BULLETIN. Their first one will be sent out during the next quarter.

Except for the Artifact Donation form at the end of each ITEM, sections previously reserved for Foundation and Friends information will no longer be included in the ITEM. Information will be covered in their BULLETINS. Watch for them to come out on a regular basis in the future.

CONTACT US

Email website corrections or updates to Bill Caldwell at:

webmaster@oflag64.us

Email photos or other digital information to elodie@oflag64.us

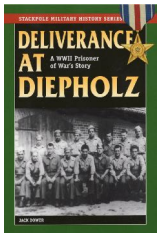


MAIL CALL



Janice Parks Brown, daughter of the late Kriegy Walter Parks, and her siblings, have donated an incredible collection of their dad's artifacts. We are truly indebted to them for these precious treasures. See the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM for photos. *Thank you very much, Parks family, for this amazing collection. The photo of the sawdust bread is awesome. We're working hard to get everything prepared to send to Szubin in as timely a manner as possible.*

Patricia Bowers Callahan, daughter of the late Kriegy James Callahan, wrote to let us know of a book that contains a great deal of information about her dad and other Kriegies. The book is entitled *Deliverance at Diepholz: A WWII Prisoner of War's Story*. She also agreed to write her dad's biography, to look for some artifacts, and to send a financial donation to the new museum. *Patty, thank you very much for the information about the book. We have posted a photo of the cover on our website. Thanks, also, for being willing to write a biography on your dad. Let us know about any artifacts you may be willing to part with and last, but not least, thanks for your donation to the museum project.*



Donald Cohn, nephew-in-law of the late Kriegy Thurston Garrett, wrote to tell us of his new address in TX. *Thanks so much, Donald for keeping us updated. It's so important to stay in touch.*



Susanna Bolten Connaughton, daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten, recently sent a treasure trove of information regarding articles she found on newspapers.com, written by Kriegy Larry Allen, as well as a radio interview discovered at the Library of Congress. *Thanks, Susanna, for all the information you've sent. What remarkable finds! Keep them coming.*

Kenneth Edsall, son of the late Kriegy Lester Edsall, was contacted about consent to use his dad's Veterans History Project information as well

as information from his dad's book "I Was No Hero But...." as we write his dad's bio. Ken was happy to share information and will continue to provide more as he runs across it. He also sadly mentioned the loss of his mother at 101 last fall, due to COVID (see the previous ITEM TAPS section) as well as his dear wife this February, also to COVID. *Ken, thanks so much for you're the information you have sent. We were so saddened to hear of the recent deaths. Our heartfelt condolences along with our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve. We know they are both greatly missed.*



Mark Evans, son of the late Kriegy Warren "Bing" Evans, in going through some of father's collections, found some "Ranger" videotapes that he wanted to donate. We expect to find some great information contained within them and are most grateful for the donation. *Thanks, Mark, very much for being willing to donate the videotapes. They will definitely help tell your dad's and other Kriegy Rangers' stories.*



Robert Galloway, producer and director of the documentary film *Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey*, has written that the video is no longer available on DVD, nor on Amazon due to issues beyond his control. However, he has recently notified us that it has now been posted to YouTube and is available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28edrjir8Yg> *Robert, thanks so much for keeping us in the loop. Your documentary is too important to lose and in some cases is the primary source of information for Kriegy families concerning their Kriegy's captivity.*

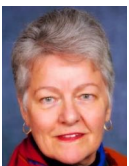
David Glendinning, son of the late Kriegy John Glendinning, graciously scanned his father's notebooks, logs, and diaries and gave permission for their use in the ITEM. Look for one of them in the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM. He also agreed to write his dad's biography. *David, thanks so much for sharing your dad's detailed records. It amazes us to think that while our Kriegies were experiencing life as*

POWs, they would also have the determination to keep such good records. Looking forward to receiving the bio.

Jonathan Goldin, a gentleman from Cape Town, South Africa, was recently going through his garage and found an old box of his parents' war memorabilia. Among the items found was a small war time diary containing medical reports and names of different people his dad had contact with, among them Hugo Fielschmidt from Dallas TX who was a camp dentist at Oflag 64. We shared Jonathan's email with Hugo's son Wayne. Jonathan will keep in touch as he find's more information about any of our Oflag 64 Kriegies. *Thanks, Jonathan, for reaching out to us. We love making connections such as these.*

Henry W. Haynes Jr., son of the late Kriegy Henry W. Haynes Sr., after receiving the brochure from "Friends of Oflag 64, Inc." in his words said: "I was surprised and elated when I recognized my father as the third man from the left in the picture on the front of the brochure." He said that his dad didn't talk much about the war unless something would come up that would remind him of something interesting or amusing that happened during those years. Henry shared that he has in his possession a letter that his father wrote to him on the occasion of his second birthday. The letter has been kept safe and is in excellent condition. If conditions are right, he would like to return it to its origination point, Oflag 64. Henry also made a financial contribution to the museum and hoped to do so again in the future. *Thank you very much, Henry, for sharing this information with us and also for your charitable donation to the museum project. What a thoughtful gift.*

Terry Ralstin Hamlin, daughter of the late Kriegy James Ralstin, was contacted by Ann Rogers from our Oflag 64 Kriegy Research Group regarding the bio Ann was writing on James. They had a thoroughly enjoyable conversation and we learned that Terry has much information to share. *Terry, we're looking forward to more communications with you and to finishing your dad's biography.*



Victoria Herring, daughter of the late Kriegy Clyde Herring, after we requested a bio on her dad, agreed to work on one soon. She and her sister, Jaine, have already donated

several artifacts to the new museum. *Thanks, Victoria, for being willing to write your dad's bio. There's still so much to learn about our Kriegies. Everything we receive will help tell their stories and give us a more complete picture of their time in captivity.*

Susan Harms Hinds, daughter of the late Kriegy Howard K. Hinds, wrote in response to our request for an obituary and biography of her dad. She and her siblings got together and wrote a beautiful biography complete with photos. She also sent a scanned copy of the Christmas 1944 program and menu for the day and stated that her family has a few small artifacts to submit to the museum. *Thanks so much, Susan, for the biography. Each one will help tell the stories of our Kriegies and the days they spent in Oflag 64 and other places during the war. Thanks also for the Christmas program. Our men were such heroes. Looking forward to other artifacts you may send.*

Wistar Holt, nephew of the late Kriegy Thomas Holt, has been very helpful in providing information and photos of his uncle for our research. *Thank you, Wistar, for everything you've provided. The more information we have, the more Kriegy stories we can share. And with every photo, there's a face that goes with the name and a person who is "brought to life" in the eyes of others.*

Sharon Franklin Hutchison, daughter of the late Kriegy Isaac "Ike" Franklin, wrote in response to our request for her dad's obituary. She will get us a copy ASAP but stated that some medical problems in the family have taken priority. *Sharon, thanks for your quick response. We hope health concerns improve for your family each day. Looking forward to receiving your dad's obituary.*



Warren Jones, son of the late Kriegy Charles L. Jones, in response to our request for his dad's obituary, immediately sent us a copy along with a suggestion that we find a copy of "Achtung" Oflag 64 1943-45. He also recently watched the Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey on YouTube and said it brought back memories of things he had read in his dad's book "The Water and the Rock" and of things he saw when he visited Szubin in 2007. *Thanks Warren, for your dad's obituary and also for the book*

suggestion. We do have the book. Separately, the YouTube video link can be found in the earlier post re: Robert Galloway. And one more thing, looking forward to the bio you write on your dad.



Lynn Kanaya, widow of the late Kriegy Jimmie Kanaya, wrote to give us permission to use Jimmie's Veterans History Projects and oral interviews for the future museum.

She also let us know that Jimmie's Arlington burial has been moved to June 30. Additionally, she commented that she has boxes of artifacts ready to ship to the Artifacts Committee. *Thanks so much, Lynn, for the permissions and for updating us on Jimmie's burial date. Looking forward to Jimmie's artifacts when you're ready to send them.*

Ron Karelse, son-in-law of Kriegy Ed Graf, reported that Ed is doing quite well and was hoping to hear from us with contact information for Warren Jones. Contact information was subsequently shared. While emailing back and forth, we sent a consent form for Ed to sign regarding the use of his Veterans History Project collection, which Ron will follow up on. *Thank you, Ron, for contacting us. Glad to have helped Ed get in contact with Warren. The two of them took a Germany/Poland trip back in 2007 which took them to the site of Oflag 64 and Szubin. Glad to hear that Ed is doing well and staying well.*

Linda Farber Kest, daughter of the late Kriegy Leo Farber, wrote in response to our request for an obituary and a bio on her dad. She responded that she and her sister are trying to gather information to send and will be in touch as soon as it has been gathered together. *Linda, thank you for being willing to share these items with us. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.*



Judy Graf Knight, daughter of Kriegy Ed Graf, wrote to give us her dad's new address and to say that he is now 99. She commented on the disrespect some show for our country

and mentioned her dad has some opinions on it also. *So good to hear from you Judy and thanks for the updated address for your dad. Unfortunately, we don't live in a perfect world or society, but it's definitely frustrating to see how certain groups disrespect our country. Let's stand up for what's right and good.*

Susan Kohnowich, daughter of the late Kriegy Carl Holmstrom, wrote to update us on information that was lacking on our website POW Database concerning her father who was only held at Oflag 64 for a short time before being transferred to Stalag Luft III (the camp where the actual Great Escape took place). Susan has had her father's book reprinted, complete with drawings he did of the camp, and has given permission for their use by the Polish-American Foundation as they prepare for the future museum. *Thank you, Susan, for all the information and help you've given us. Our database has been updated to reflect your father's correct information.*



Ann Hoskot Kreutzer, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot, has had contact with Regina Southern, daughter of the late Kriegy Jerrell Wesley Southern. We have reached out recently as well. *Anne, thanks so much for letting us know about Regina. Hoping to hear from her soon. We love becoming acquainted with other "Kriegy Kids".*



Hope Langan, daughter of the late Kriegy Vincent Grimes has sent us Kriegy photos in the past which have all been posted to our website. The Polish-American Foundation is always looking for good quality scans (TIFFs, 600 dpi) for their research and work. Some of Hope's photos are of interest them. When she returns from Florida soon, she will rescan and send photos to the Foundation. *Hope, we're grateful for your willingness to provide what's needed.*



Robert Levin, Kriegy, will be 101 this April. We recently learned that he did a series of 6 short video interviews not long ago for the Durham VA Health Care System, entitled "My Life, My Story". In preparation for writing his bio, we located and watched the video interviews and encourage you to do the same. Click on each link separately.

<https://vimeo.com/457784699>

<https://vimeo.com/457785377>

<https://vimeo.com/457792789>

<https://vimeo.com/457793614>

<https://vimeo.com/457794295>

<https://vimeo.com/457795159>

Thank you so much, Robert, for sharing your story and for giving us the opportunity to write

your bio. We're so happy to have made contact with you again.

Danna Lockerby, granddaughter of the late Kriegy Jack Carpenter asked us several years back to let her know if we ran across any photos of her grandfather. Her hope was to share photos with her sons. Believe it or not, that was in 2012. Interestingly, a few weeks ago we ran across a photo that included him, and with the help of one of our other Kriegy Kids were able to identify the men in the photo. So, of course, we sent her the photo. She said she was able to recognize Jack from other post-war photos of him. *Danna, thanks for your response to our email. Finding the photo is a lesson to us all to not give up on trying to find information. The new photo has now been posted to our website and is also included in the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM.*



Anne Cockrell Matzelle, daughter of the late Kriegy Jim Cockrell, wrote to thank us for the expression of sympathy sent to her from the Oflag 64 Family at the passing of her dear husband, Wayne. She commented that he was an ardent admirer of the Kriegies, her dad of course being his favorite. He was the one who talked her dad into writing his “narrative” and collected all the ITEMS. Anne would like to someday go to Szubin if at all possible. *Anne, it's so difficult to lose our family members, particularly difficult to lose a spouse. Our thoughts and prayers and heartfelt condolences are sent to you as you grieve and make adjustments. We know he is greatly missed.*



Marlene Thompson McAllister, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. Thompson, has been in contact with Susan Holmstrom Kohnowich, daughter of Kriegy Carl Holmstrom who wrote “Kriegie Life” and sketched incredible pictures of camp life for the book. Susan has recently had the book reprinted and has made the photos available for the future museum. *Thank you so much, Marlene, for sending Susan's updated contact information. What a great gift she has given to the museum.*



John Rodgers, Sr., Kriegy, just turned 98 and reported that he's doing okay but doesn't get out much so COVID doesn't bother him. At 98, he's one of our 3 youngest remaining

living Kriegies. Hard to believe that 98 is the youngest. Such amazing Kriegies, such amazing lives, such amazing experiences. Thanks to them for what they have taught us. *Thank you, John, for staying in touch. It's always good to hear from you. Hope you continue to stay well.*



Ted Roggen, Kriegy, just turned 103 and is our oldest living Kriegy. CONGRATULATIONS TED!! We hope your birthday celebration was enjoyable and memorable and that you're doing well. Ted sent us a story he wrote about “What Should Have Happened But Didn't” which is included in the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM. *Ted, you're still hard at work and continuing to write. Thank you very much for keeping us up to date on how you and Sydney are doing. Always good to hear from you. Stay well.*



Gail Bradford Brown Shapiro, daughter of the late Kriegy “Brad” Bradford, wrote to let us know that she is still in Florida and that they got their vaccines. We have been in discussions with her regarding her dad's incredible war log. Decisions are being made by her and her family as to whether it will be donated to our museum or not. *Gail, we always enjoy hearing from you. Hope you are still doing well. We know that making such a decision is difficult as it's hard to pass treasured items on. Let us know what you decide. We will honor your wishes either way. If you decide to donate it, be assured that the utmost care will be taken of your dad's war log and that permissions from you will be sought for anything you feel important every step of the way.*



Marsh Smith, son of the late Kriegy Francis Marion Smith, responded to an email we sent regarding his father, commenting: “I live in the house in which Dad raised me and have his same PO Box, which I now use as the address for my law office. And I kept Dad's phone number, too... the same one he had, when he retired from the Army to Southern Pines in 1959. After he died, I kept his PO Box and phone number, because I couldn't bear the thought of one of his friends trying to re-establish contact, only to encounter a returned letter or a “number disconnected” recording.” Marsh also sent a wonderful story he wrote about his dad for his

children. *Marsh, thank you for responding so quickly and for including the story you wrote. What a great gift to pass down to them. You certainly have a talent for writing.*



Phil Smith, PR Director and Curator of the Van Zandt County Veteran's Memorial and Visitors Center contacted us about getting a copy of Clarence Meltesen's "Roads to Liberation" book. He also shared that he would soon be interviewing the niece of one of our late Kriegies, Loyd A. Taylor. That was exciting news for us. We sent a copy of the book Phil requested and he has agreed to share photos, an audiotaped interview, and whatever he can with us as it is given to him. *Thank you so much, Phil, for sharing information about Loyd with us and for keeping us in the loop regarding his POW memorabilia.*



Rupert Starr, Kriegy, is another living Kriegy we just found; he will soon be 99. He was captured in December of 1944 and was interned at Oflag 64Z where several of our other Kriegies also ended up. There are several articles and a couple of associated videos about him online and also a Veterans History Project interview. We've sent him a "consent to use form" regarding his materials and look forward to hearing from him soon. We are also in the process of writing his biography. Because of the twinkle in his eye, Rupert is affectionately known as "Twink". *Rupert, we are so happy to have found you. You make the 7th living Kriegy we're aware of to date. It was good speaking with you by phone the other day. We hope to be in contact with you again.*

Christine Taft, daughter of the late Kriegy Edmon "Ted" Rinehart, after a request to her about her dad's Veterans History Project files, responded that she would return the consent form right away. She will check with her brother about artifacts as well. *Christine, thanks for being willing to send the form. Looking forward to receiving it soon. Also looking forward to any artifacts your family is willing to donate to the future museum.*



Paul Thriffiley III, son of the late Kriegy Paul Thriffiley Jr. found obituaries on Kriegy Leo Fisher and Kriegy Floyd Burgeson along with

some articles written by or about Leo Fisher and one about Floyd Burgeson's family. *We're so thankful to you, Paul, for finding these historical treasures. Your finds are amazing and so invaluable.*



Pat Waters, son of the late Kriegy John K. Waters, wrote to thank us for sending the last ITEM and commented on the "remarkable job" and presentation of the materials. With COVID on many people's minds, he said it's easy to lose focus, so was thankful for the material and felt re-energized to get to work. He and Martha also sent a New Year's card. *Pat, thanks so much for your kind words. COVID has indeed changed our lives a bit. Prioritizing has become more important in some areas of our lives but we always have hope. Things will certainly get better. We enjoyed yours and Martha's New Year's message. Stay well.*

David Williams, President of the Descendants of World War II Rangers, Inc., in response to a request from our Kriegy Research Group, shared a Eulogy he wrote for our late Kriegy Warren "Bing" Evans. David has an incredible website filled with great information about the Rangers. Access it from this link: www.wwiirangers.org *David, thanks so much for the information you've shared.*



Nancy Thompson Wyatt, daughter of the late Kriegy Robert T. Thompson, wrote to let us know of the passing of Anne Matzelle's husband Wayne in January of this year. Anne is the daughter of the late Kriegy Jim Cockrell. *Thank you very much, Nancy, for passing the information along. We wouldn't know some of this information except for people like you who share it with us.*

To watch more Oflag 64 YouTube videos about the camp and our Kriegies, click on this link. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=oflag+64

We're looking for high-quality scans of photos currently on our website. If you have originals and can scan them as TIFFs at 600 dpi, that would be great. Also, if you can identify any of our Kriegies, please contact me at elodie@oflag64.us.

Kriegy News and Information



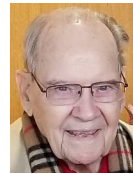
**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



to our great
KRIEGY PATRIOTS AND HEROES



Robert Levin Sr.
April 30 – Age 101



Wilbur Sharpe
June 24 – Age 99

Warren Ohlhurst – June 8, Age 99

We wish you all the very best!!

Artifact Updates

These artifacts belonged to the late Kriegy, Dr. Walter S. Parks, Jr. but have recently been donated to the future museum by his children. Thanks, Parks family, for these amazing artifacts. Some of the photos are a few years old so there has been some deterioration in the items since, but among the donations are a



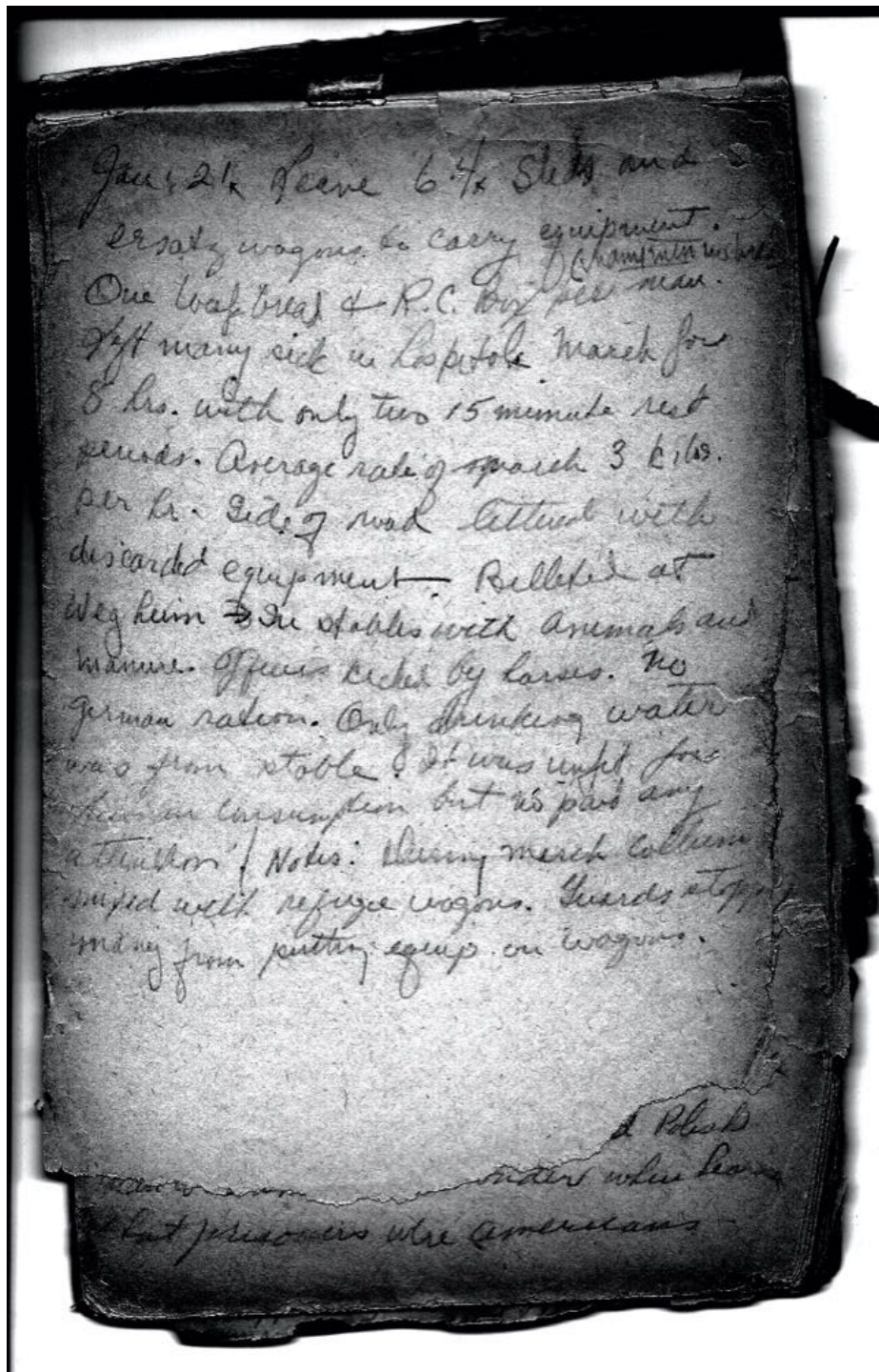
Russian bar of soap, Russian cigarettes in their original wrapper, a hand-made shoe and mitten made out of a blanket, German silverware, sawdust bread, a hat with a home-made lieutenant bar sewn on, a medicine bottle, a candle and either some home-made jerky or chewing tobacco. Scrapbooks and other items have also been donated from the Parks Collections. We're extremely grateful for these donations and excited to be able to share some of them here and with visitors to the future museum.



The following scans of the late Kriegy John A. Glendinning's 11-page POW Notebook detail parts of the long, cold march. It's continually amazing to me to learn of all our men went through, what they thought, what they felt, how they handled one challenge after another. And yet, they made it, sometimes better for their experiences and sometimes with continued challenges. But we're indebted to our great Kriegy Patriots and Heroes for their sacrifices during WWII and while interned at Oflag 64.

Thanks to John's son, David Glendinning, for granting us permission to use these scans in the ITEM. And thanks to John (who went by Glen at times) for keeping such good records.

Except for this first scan, the succeeding scans are flipped 90 degrees to the left, but read like a book; the scan at the left of the page comes before the scan on the right.



January: 22: Left Weizheim
transient large. Spent night
in barns. Built originally for
immigrants, now used for
refugees out. Several remained
behind - Cross Bromberg Canal
bridge around noon. gun fire
of artillery and machine guns. 2
squads of jeeps on bridge. Road block
of granite blocks - sentry behind machine
gun - another in a hole with Panzer
fust, as rear of column cleared bridge &
block was closed - Tempo of distant
artillery fire increased, and murmur
of machine voices did same. Toad on back
switched lighter, aching feet became
easier - stop for lunch - march
again. Stop - Town square with abandoned
vehicles ready to be fired. Old Polish
man who smiled in wonder when he saw
that prisoners were Americans.

4 km. march to ~~Potomoc~~ + Belkied in
Barn. Night. POLORONKO (20th MARCH)

Jan. 23: 6 AM. Col. Oakes wakes Looles
up to tell that Guard Comp. had taken
off. Mueer stays - feeling of freedom -
take me village - Am for boys - Poles
come in for coffee + cigarettes - Russians
Czechs in - "Where are the Germans?"
Rum about Col. Schneider's Camp.
3 pm. Sneada returns with 5.5x
3 pm Terrible reaction. We had heard
too soon + Polish girl and Russian
had tears in their eyes when I said
goodbye. It was tough to try and cheer them
up, but we were sure that before night fall
the Russ. would save us. 3 pm. We marched
out - across country. Snow a foot deep.
Very windy + many more sick were
lost with us. At about 6 pm we got to
Cherbatimburg. Belkied in stables + fresh
manure to sleep on, but it kept us warm.
no descent water.

Jan. 24. Leave Charlottenburg
for Tobsens. left about 9:45 A.M.
minus more sick many were marching
on guts alone. Even though this was
a short march, 10 km, it felt like ten
times that far due to the elements and
lack of food and water. Stopped for 15
minutes within of Tobsens. Poles were
extremely good. It confirms your faith in
America to see the change in their facial
expression when they heard we were
Americans. They gave us food bread, cheese,
hot coffee, milk, my feet almost
anything - the local police stopped many
from helping us, but it wasn't very effective.
S.S. (Latvian) were very decent, much more
so than guard company had been. We were the
few + Americans they had seen - we gave them
cigarettes and treated them fair and square -
they reciprocated. At Tobsens Schneider
narrowed list about officers who attempted to
escape. He had put into hay loft at Charlotte
and flushed 17. He read an order by Himmler
which gave him power to court martial
anyone who attempted to escape. we got
no returns from gen. Belleted in barn.
Guard Co. returns.

Jan. 25: Leave Tobsens for Platsow.
Awake to find blankets covered with
frost. left Tobsens at 9:45. S.S. fuel
into all hay lofts - many sick were
transported by open trucks. Bitter wind.
Heavy gun fire on our left flank
All day. At Platsow belleted in barns.
No lights. Only water was hot the lucky
ones got from a Polish boy at the price of
one cup for one cigarette - 50 small
fires around yard while officers try to
get a little warmth and hot water for
coffee.

Jan. 26 - Hataw - Dead Russian,
from starvation and cold, lying in latrine
area where gr. had dropped Am.

Bordered flat car for unknown destination

WITH THE MAIN BODY

AT Hataw: A day of rest which was more misery
than anything else. Groups huddled around meager
fires trying to get some warmth. All trading was ordered
withheld. Rumors of war and possible rail transport sprang up
with amazing veracity as each restless hour of the day crept
by. The most fantastic of them all was one which the
German Commandant himself, Col. Schneider, told to Col.
Good. In effect it was that "the Russian Ambs to Wash
and London had been recalled and the Am and Br.
troops were landing at Sletten. Germany and
America were now allied against the Germans." It is
fantastic as that story may sound, no one knew
quite what to make of it, whether to believe it or
not. Finally, with no R.B. authentication, it
was passed over as just another goon lie.

^{up early night, oatmeal soup at 6:30}
January 27 - Left Hataw at 9 AM. There had
been a heavy snow fall the night before, and
the days march in bitter cold. did not appear
to have very pleasant prospects. Which it
wasn't. The snow was deep and mushy and when
the group arrived at Tastrow there were very few
with dry socks and several with severely frost-
bitten feet. In the town, the group passed a column
of British and Russian Ambs who were also on
the march. (19 Kilg. MARCH)

Jan. 28: Sunday, the seventh day ^{which had had}
set aside as his day of rest, the seventh day of
this march to the west. ^{Up early to} up from
the lay left at 8:30. Another tin of hot water which
was kamofaged as soup and on with what was to
be one of the hardest days ^{before} the group had yet
made. Approximately 800 men left. There are
few words to describe the awful pain and trials
of this days march across 16 kilometers of wind swept
plain country which is blanketed under deep
snow drifts. Nothing could keep the needle blasts of
fierce wind from penetrating our bodies. Feet
were totally cold, but, thank God, they were not
wet so the chances of frost bite were cut considerably.
The thought keeps fermenting in your mind
as to whether it is worth while, all this walking

in misery or whether it would be better
lie down by the side of the road and slowly die off
into the wanners of complete oblivion. The
groups straight are better than those of the refugees
in that black-frozen land which pointed up to the
sun from a snow bank. The Volkstuecke may have
more food and wagons to carry them, but what is the
future? To be constant wanderers, Ours is the hope
and expectation of a better life after the war, and
their driving force is that of fear. Bedded for the
night in a Catholic Church at Zippnow.

Monday Jan. 29. Left Zippnow at 10 o'clock this
morning and marched 8 kils. to this place, an
abandoned Polish typical camp. I.D. There was good
soup for breakfast and the group needed it because
this was another day of terrible weather. The situation
we now find ourselves in is the best since the day of our
Erzatz liberation. There are beds, plenty of potatoes,
coal for stoves, and water to wash and share in.
Life looks good. How fast one can go from Hell to
Heaven!

Tues. Jan. 30. Heaven is gone again. We left
I.D. at 1 pm. 68 officers remained behind to be
re-taken by the German who are at Jastrow.
It's the story, always walking, always ^{compassed}
by the cold and fended by the wind. For 16
kilometers across plains and through forests.

Bedded down in barn again at the court of
MACHLIN.

Jan. 31. Wed. Tuesday: Another 16 kilometers trek
to Tendelburg. Before we left Machlin we
were given our first bread in 10 days.

Feb. 1. Thursday: At 10:30 am we moved again.
This time to Hendricksdorf, 5 kilometers. There
is a house in the air. Food is running very short.

Feb. 2. Friday: Hit the road again, boys! Left
12:30. So they did. They let it for 18 kilometers.
Stopped for the night at Totzhagen.

Feb. 3. Saturday. Still at Totzhagen, sleeping
in the choir loft of the local church. Schmieders
says only 5 more days to STARGART where there
is a camp and Red Cross parcels.

Feb. 4. Sunday: 17k march to Genow.

Feb. 5: 20k march to BEITLITZ.

Feb. 6. 20k march to Regenwalde.

Feb. 7 - 20k march to Griefenberg - no supper.

Feb. 8 - 20k march to Stachow. It was a fairly clear day, but and compared to many of the days since the group left 64. Not too difficult for marching. But, after 2 weeks, men's feet sore suddenly gone sore, joints ache, and guts above are hurting more than a few on the go. Food has run short, too. Cigarettes are still generally abundant, so trading is possible.

Feb. 9 - March again. Talk of food & Col. Cooke at front of column with his bag-pipes & Maj. Coker's proposition of sending chocolate to any POW was talked of to great length. Other excellent foods mentioned are mother's home cooked upside down cake - ect.

Feb. 10. Started to go again at 9:45. Rumors that we are headed for an Oflag on the Oder. Weather is exceptionally fine, in fact, one would almost say beautiful and some how the rapid pace of march does not seem to affect us too much. Maybe it's the level country we are traversing or the good highway along which we are walking. Believed for night at an airport at DREVENOW. arrived here at 10 pm after a 17k march. Spuds + turnips for supper. Potatoes are our main diet now.

Feb. 11. Sunday. Breakfast this morning given us by the airport kitchen and it consisted of good, thick barley soup. Before we began today's march, we were issued 1 loaf of bread and $\frac{1}{4}$ block of marg. How long must this last - the food? How long must it all last? Until no one is left standing? 15k march to Newendorf where a barn was once more the night's shelter x

Feb. 12. Left Newendorf at 10 am. Were given $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of soup before leaving - this has been one of our worst days. The cold is unbearable. Every joint seems frozen - it takes both hands to cut the bread. 6 men have passed out completely. 20 or 30 are on the fringe through exhaustion. "Man can not live by bread alone, particularly when there is so little bread. Since our departure from 64, we have been issued $\frac{1}{4}$ loaf of bread. Today's take covered 25 k. Arrived at Naval base of Swinemunde.

Feb. 13. Commandant says he is trying to get us R.C. boxes, also, that our march is $\frac{1}{2}$ done. But, lets hope so. Fries to an island - walk, walk - potatoes & that's all - walk again.

We recently received and posted this photo on our website. Thanks to David Durgin, son of the late Kriegy George Durgin who also had a copy, we can identify all the Kriegies in the photo. Front row l-r: George Muehlbauer, Warren Curtis, Ed Berlinski, Joe Friedman. Back row l-r: Howard Holder, Cecil Eubanks, Jack Carpenter, George Durgin.



* * * * *

The following entry was written by Ted Roggen on October 7, 2020 at 5:00 a.m. The writing is entitled: "WHAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED BUT DIDN'T".

I am 102 years old and a former Oflag 64 Kriegie. I have thought about writing this for several years, but I along with other Kriegies made many mistakes. The mistakes were: As the Germans prepared to take us on that long, bitter cold march, I now realize that I was foolish to "fall in line" with my fellow kriegies and make that crazy "march".

As soon as the Germans lined up everyone for the march, I had a chance to hide in my evacuated barracks, but didn't. My reasons...I could not get my good friends Lt. Hugh Hogan and Lt. Steve Bires to go along with me. I hesitated, because Hogan and Bires said: "We are very close to being liberated." "We shouldn't take any chances," They were wrong.

Very close to the camp exit was the camp hospital. There were quite a few Kriegies in the hospital. Again, I couldn't get my friends to join me.

The march started, with Hogan, Bires and Roggen. It was bitter cold. Our first stop for the night was at a German farm. To keep warm, I slept with “several cows.” The German guards did not look for any of the Kriegies. I think they were trying to keep warm themselves.

The next morning we assembled and began another day of “marching”. Our original German guards deserted. Here comes a company of SS Troops to guard us. Along the way we made several stops, and the SS Guards were loosed.

I remember a small barn, where I wanted to hide, but my Kriegie friends refused. As we marched toward Luckenwalde, not the concentration camp, I developed a severe “blister” on my heel. I don’t remember the exact details but one of the guards called for medical help and I was on the way to the camp hospital. I developed pneumonia, and spent several weeks in the hospital. This is where I met an officer, a doctor, of the Yugoslavs, who visited my bedside every day. One day he stopped at my bedside and sang “The Eyes Of Texas”. I arose from my bed and asked how he learned that song. He told me an American Intelligence Officer taught him the song. The Yugoslav officer’s name was Gabriel Ptrovitch. Months after my freedom, I invited Ptrovitch to visit my Houston home. While visiting me, I took him on a “shopping spree”. I equipped him with an overcoat and several other things.

The doctor’s visit was a disaster. My wife, Sydney, discovered several items belonging to my daughter had been stolen. The doctor returned to Belgrade. I stopped writing. I don’t know whether he is still alive.

I have omitted many things from this event, but I was “Lucky.” “I survived.”

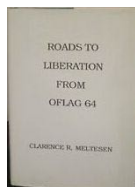
Publications

We’re currently looking for a copy of each of the following. Please let us know if you find one or have one to donate.

- “Country boy infantry: “The Blue Devils” 88th Infantry Division, 1944-1945” by the late Kriegy Carey E. Ashcraft, Jan. 1, 1987
- “My World War II Experiences” by the late Kriegy Donald Lussenden
- “People Too” by the late Kriegy William H. Schaefer
- “The Colonel” by the late Kriegy James F. Skells
- Milton E. Dowse – 3D copy of online publication

If you are looking for any of the following, please contact.....

Marilyn Kanners Beckham (Vic’s daughter) for a copy of **Vic Kanners Diary**, 3608 W BRADFORD DR, BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48301-3353. beckhammarilyn@hotmail.com



Lynne Meltesen, daughter of the late Kriegy Clarence Meltesen, has sent us a few more copies of his fantastic resource book, **“Roads to Liberation”**. If you would like a copy, please contact Elodie Caldwell at elodie@oflag64.us. The book is available at no charge but you will pay for S & H. (Thank you Meltesen family for this service.)



Pat Waters, son of the late Kriegy John Waters, sent several copies of the **“John K. Waters Story”** which can be purchased by contacting Elodie Caldwell, \$15.99 includes S&H. Please write your check to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund. (Thank you, Pat, for sending these copies.)



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