

# Post Oflag 64 Item



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

## 2ND QUARTER 2016

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Paul J. Thriffley III  
W. Alexander Williams  
Wayne Williams, Reverend  
Mariusz Winiecki

**Oflag 64**

## Test Your Trivia Knowledge

Hello Oflag 64 Families,

Since this is the month we celebrate US Independence Day, we thought it might be fun to refresh our memories on flag trivia. We ran across these questions recently. Find out how much you know or remember.

1. What should be done with worn or outdated flags?
  2. In the song "You're a Grand Old Flag" by George M. Cohen, what does he say is 'neath the Red, White and Blue?
  3. Who were the first two astronauts to put the US flag on the moon?
  4. How many American flags are on the moon?
  5. The part of the flag that contains the stars is called what?
  6. How many stripes are on the US flag?
  7. Without looking, how many stripes on the American flag are red?
  8. Where can you find the original Star Spangled Banner today?
  9. When did Francis Scott Key write the lyrics that became the national anthem?
  10. When did "The Star-Spangled Banner" officially become the United States national anthem?
  11. How was the American flag used before the War of 1812?
  12. Who has the authority to order American flags flown at half-staff?
1. destroyed, preferably burned
  2. Ev'ry heart beats true
  3. Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin
  4. six
  5. canton, field, union
  6. thirteen
  7. seven
  8. at the Smithsonian Institution
  9. the morning after the Battle of Fort McHenry -- September 14, 1814
  10. March 3, 1931 by congressional resolution
  11. to identify ships and forts
  12. president, state governors, mayor of D.C.

Hope you enjoyed this little exercise.

Our best to you always,  
Elodie and Bill Caldwell



# A LITTLE COMPANY BUSINESS

## Postage Fund Donors

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

**Lois Hill  
John R. Rodgers, Sr.  
Anonymous Donations**

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

<b>Bret Job</b> 4240 Trail Ridge Ln Minnetonka MN 55345-2554	or	<b>Elodie Caldwell</b> 2731 Terry Ave Longview WA 98632-4437
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## Do you have....

...information on the following Kriegy whose ITEMS have been returned? We as yet have not been able to find forwarding information or an obituary for him. If you know anything about him, have contact information for him or a family member, please let us know.

David E. Crocker – Nederland TX

Thanks for your help,  
Elodie Caldwell at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us)

\* \* \* \* \*

## Looking forward to visiting Poland in September

Elodie Caldwell	Taylor McAllister
Tom Cobb	Michael Mumford
Janet Ellsworth	Krystyna Piórkowska
Anne Kreutzer	Linda Sutherland
Tom Kreutzer	Pat Waters
Marlene McAllister	Nancy Wyatt



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



**JIM BIGGS** (researching information on the late Kriegy Lark O. Daniel, Jr.) recently contacted us to see if we had any information on Lark, specifically death information. Sadly, we couldn't provide anything other than what we show on our website. We were able to find limited information on a family history website but not what he was looking for. In a subsequent email, Jim provided information that he had and will keep us informed if he finds anything new. *Thank you very much, Jim, for sharing what you know about Lark. We hope you're successful in your future searches.*

**WILL CANOVA** (Newspaper and Periodical Projects Coordinator for the University of Florida Digital Collections) wrote that the University of Florida is currently seeking publications for inclusion in the Digital Military Newspaper Library. They would like to include our Post Oflag 64 ITEM in their Digital Collections. By way of explanation, the DMNL acts as a repository of military news and culture from around the country and has a continuing goal to archive and preserve military perspective by offering full geographical representation of history through current issues of select US Military publications. There are currently over 40 periodical titles in the collection. Please check this link for more information: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/dmnl>. *Thanks so much, Will, for contacting us and inviting us to participate. We are honored that you would ask to use our material. After looking over your site, we are happy to participate.*



**SUSANNA CONNAUGHTON** (daughter of the late Kriegy Seymour Bolten) has found the story of Oflag 64 irresistible. With that and many letters shared between her dad and his family and friends, she says "the story has sucked me in!" And now she is working on a long-term project relating to those Oflag 64 times. Additionally, she has sent photos of some of the handwritten Daily Bulletins that were written, preserved, and brought back to the states after

the war. She has done some archival research work on them, has taken some photos, and has shared a few with us. (See the Kriegy News and Information section of this ITEM.) *Thank you very much, Susanna, for sharing your thoughts with us. We always enjoy hearing from you. Your project sounds amazing. We hope it goes well and that you enjoy success at it's completion. Thanks also for sending photos of the Daily Bulletins along and for your kind words. We appreciate hearing them from time to time.*

**LOIS HILL** (widow of the late Kriegy Jonel Hill) sent a donation to the Postage Fund shortly after the death of her dear husband. *Thanks so much, Lois, for your very generous and thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund. Jonel donated on a fairly regular basis and we always appreciated his support as we do yours. We send our thoughts and prayers to you as well as our heartfelt condolences at the passing of Jonel. He was a true Kriegy patriot and hero and we know he is greatly missed.*

**TRENT HILL** (son of the late Kriegy Jonel Hill) wrote to let us know of the passing of his dear father. He also attached the link to the obituary. You can read the obituary in the TAPS section of this ITEM. *Thanks so much, Trent, for letting us know about the death of your Dad. It's so hard to lose these great patriots and heroes. We thank him for his great service and sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We know he is mightily missed.*

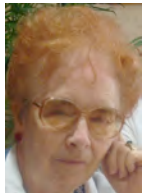
**H. RANDOLPH HOLDER** (son of the late Kriegy "Boomer" Holder) commented on the great life story contained in the obituary of Jonel Hill. *Thank you for writing and commenting on the life story of Jonel. It's always amazing to me what was accomplished by our great Kriegy patriots and heroes after the war. They were and are truly great men.*

**LUCY LUSSENDEN** (widow of the late Kriegy Don Lussenden) has been in contact with Mariusz Winiecki about parts of Don's book and



his involvement as a bookbinder while at Oflag 64. The information she has shared will be included in future publications by Mariusz. *Lucy, always good to hear from you. Thanks very*

*much for writing and letting us know about your communication with Mariusz. It takes all of us to put the pieces of the puzzle together. We appreciate your willingness to share information.*



**ANNETTE NELSON** (widow of the late Kriegy Richard Secor) recently wrote that she would be unable to join the group traveling to Poland in September but said that's on her "Wish List". She wished everyone

who will be going well. *Thanks very much, Annette, for writing and for your well wishes. Our group of 12 is looking forward to the trip. We'll report once we return.*

**WARREN OHLHORST** (Kriegy) wrote with a question about the duties our enlisted Kriegies. He was at Oflag 64 for only a short time so wasn't aware of how they served. *Thank you very much, Warren, for contacting us again. It's always good to hear from our Kriegies. We hope the email we sent answered your question.*



**JOHN RODGERS SR.** (Kriegy) regularly sends along some wonderful information of historical significance as well as current information of interest. In a recent letter, he shared details of his capture and his eventual arrival at

Oflag 64. He also sent a donation to the Postage Fund. *Thanks so much, John, for your thoughtful donation to the Postage Fund and also for sharing information with us. We always enjoy hearing from you! Regarding your question about White House Kriegies, there are approximately 54 living Kriegies remaining, according to our knowledge, plus or minus a few. Of those White House Kriegies we know about, two are still living but we were not able to determine others who might have stayed at the White House since we don't have complete lists.*

**TED ROGGEN** (Kriegy) wrote in response to one of our TAPS emails, commenting that "Our Kriegies are leaving us too soon." That's



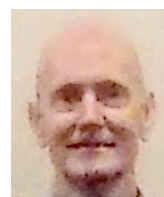
definitely true and sad at the same time. *Thanks very much, Ted, for writing and expressing your thoughts. We love our Kriegies and it's difficult to see them go.*

**SUSAN SCOTT** (daughter of the late Kriegy Jack Van Vliet) wrote that she would like to remain on our email list. *Susan, it was good to hear from you again. Thanks so much for contacting us. Your email address has been reactivated on our list.*

**DAVE STEWART** (son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) contacted us recently and asked to be added to our email list. He also wrote that he and his daughter had recently returned from a trip to Poland. He reported on their trip generally and included some photos of the remaining barrack at the Oflag 64 site. See the Kriegy News and Information section. You will see that the barrack is sadly in need of renovation. We hope preservation efforts will be successful. *Thanks so much, Dave, for sharing information about your trip and traveling in Europe. Thanks also for the photos. Hearing about needed renovations sometimes doesn't impact us as much as seeing what's needed does. We have added you to our email list as requested. You should be hearing from us soon.*



**ROBERT STEWART** (son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart) wrote recently and asked to be added to our email list. *Thank you very much, Robert, for contacting us. We have added your to our email list as requested. We will be emailing soon.*



**PAUL THRIFFILEY III** (son of the late Kriegy Paul J. Thriffiley, Jr.), after receiving information about Paul Marable's death, found a link to Paul's obituary. *We're thankful to you, Paul, for finding this information. It's great to have eyes and ears on the alert for this information, as sad as it is.*

**JACKIE VAN VLIET-CARNELL** (daughter of the late Kriegy Jack Van Vliet) contacted us with

and updated street address, email address and phone number. We were excited to learn that another Oflag 64 family member lives in Washington State. *Thank you very much, Jackie, for your updated contact information. We hope our paths will cross in the future.*

**W. ALEXANDER WILLIAMS** (son of the late Kriegy Thomas J. C. Williams) recently contacted us to let us know that his father passed away in 2001. An interesting bit of information was also shared: "There is one anecdote from Szubin I would like to share with you. When my father got there, he (and all the other incoming prisoners) were questioned by the Americans to prevent the Germans from planting stooges among the prisoners. When he said he was from Baltimore, another prisoner from Baltimore appeared. This prisoner was Lt. Col. John Waters, who was also the security boss for the prisoners. When Waters went into the barracks, my father said that everybody stopped what they were doing and looked. Then they pretended to return to their tasks, but, in reality, watched what was happening. Waters asked my father a bunch of questions about Baltimore, including some sites or people that were fictitious. On one of the questions my father said that he did not know. He volunteered that he had attended a party at the home of a 'Kitty Abercrombie.' My father and Waters discussed Miss Abercrombie's and her parents' home in some detail. Sometime later, my father learned that Kitty Abercrombie was a cousin of John Waters." Thomas' obituary originally appeared in the Baltimore Sun in 2001 and is found in the TAPS section of this ITEM. We are hoping for photos and other information about him to add to our website in the future. *Thanks very much for writing and sharing some of your dad's story with us. Sometimes I think it would've been interesting to be a little fly on the wall listening in to all that was discussed and planned. Thanks also for sharing your dad's death date and obituary.*

**WAYNE WILLIAMS** (Reverend, and new Oflag 64 family member) wrote that he has been friends with Paul and Betty Marable for a long time. He asked to be added to our email list so he could receive the ITEM to keep up with information that is also being sent to the Marables. In a separate email he sent word that

Paul Marable had passed away, actually in December of 2013. See his obituary in the TAPS section of this ITEM. *Thank you, Wayne, for sharing this information. We don't always hear when our Kriegies leave us so we appreciate your contact. See the TAPS section of this item for his obituary. We have added you to our email list as requested and you should be hearing from us soon.*



**MARIUSZ WINIECKI** (Oflag 64 family member from Poland) is continuously engaged in a good cause. In April, in cooperation with the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) he was able to secure old photos taken while our Kriegies were held at Oflag 64. I have also received permission from the ICRC to use some of these photos which will eventually be uploaded to our website, but for now they are included in this ITEM. We are thankful to Mariusz for his diligence in keeping historical photos properly labeled and for sharing information with us. In a later email he wrote about a lecture he gave in Szubin entitled "Under, over and through the wire – known and unknown facts about escapes and escape attempts from Oflag XXIB and Oflag 64". One of the objectives was to get town officials interested in the camp's history with hopes that preservation efforts would become more important to them. (More lecture information can be found on his blog "The Oflag 64 Record", posted 26 April 2016, under the lecture title name.) As you look at Mariusz' subsequent post, you'll see a very interesting story about the Kapsa's printing house where Willi Kricks printed The Item in its original form, and another post about a new book written by Stephen Dando-Collins regarding escapes from the Oflag 64 site. *Thanks always, Mariusz, for your diligent efforts on behalf of our Oflag 64 Association. We have learned so much from you and your research. By the way, our little traveling group is looking forward to meeting you in September.*



## COMMENTS

Let us know how we are doing. Constructive comments and criticisms are always appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Thanks again to you and your helpers for publishing the ITEM. You guys do a great job and it is obvious that you are truly dedicated to keeping all of us in touch with each other. ~ **Lucy Lussenden**

Thank you for the wonderful job you're doing with the ITEM. ~ **Ted Roggen**

## WEB CONNECTION

Thank you for creating and maintaining the site and this community. I am so grateful. ~ **Susanna Connaughton**

Thank you for all your work on the website. ~ **Trent Hill**

### **New visitors to our website – We welcome you to our Oflag 64 Family**

Jim Biggs – researching death information on the late Kriegy Lark O. Daniel III

Trent Hill – son of the late Kriegy Jonel C. Hill

Susan Scott – daughter of the late Kriegy Jack Van Vliet

Dave Stewart – son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart

Robert Stewart – son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart

Jackie Van Vliet-Carnell – daughter of the late Kriegy Jack Van Vliet

Rev. Wayne Williams – friend of the late Kriegy Paul D. Marable

W. Alexander Williams – son of the late Kriegy Thomas J. C. Williams



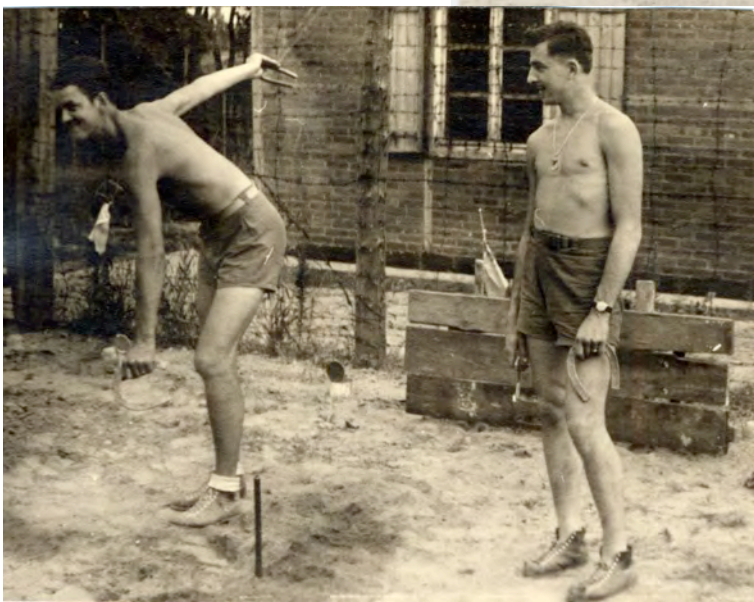
**Website Additions:** If you notice errors or omissions, or find links that don't work properly, please let us know at [elodie@oflag64.us](mailto:elodie@oflag64.us).

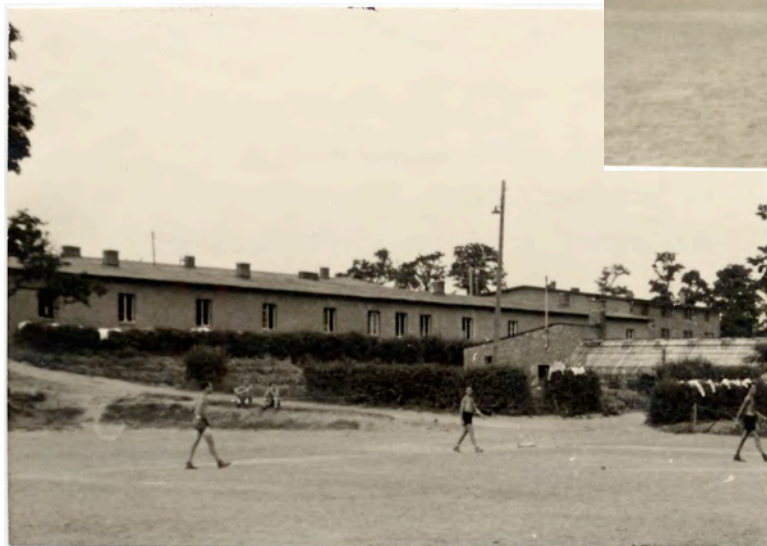
## KRIEGY NEWS & INFORMATION

Since the last ITEM, we have received permission to publish these **photos taken by the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)** while our Kriegies were at Oflag 64. You may have seen some of them before since we've used them on our website, but they haven't been in such high resolution. Thanks to the ICRC and Mariusz Winiiecki for making them available. Do you recognize anyone?



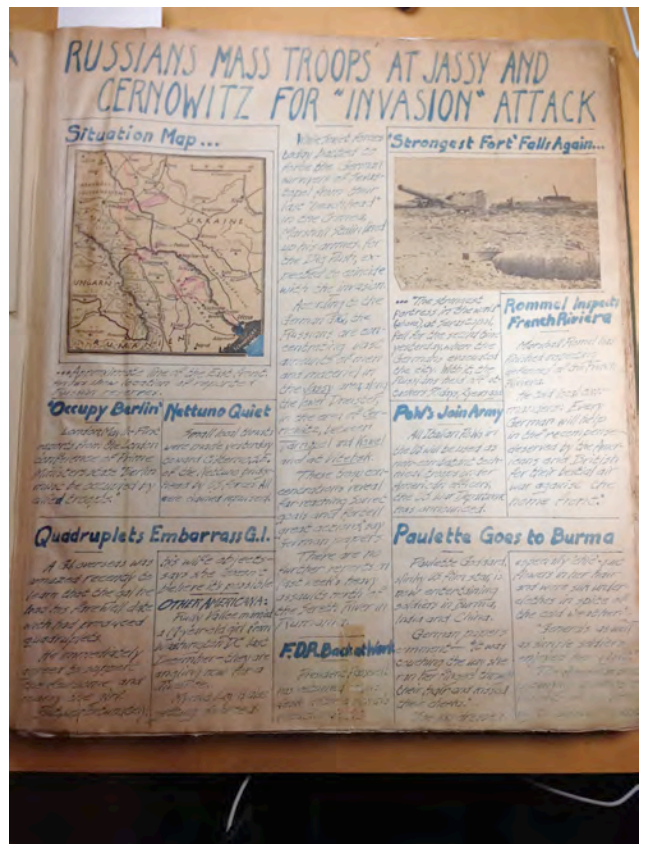
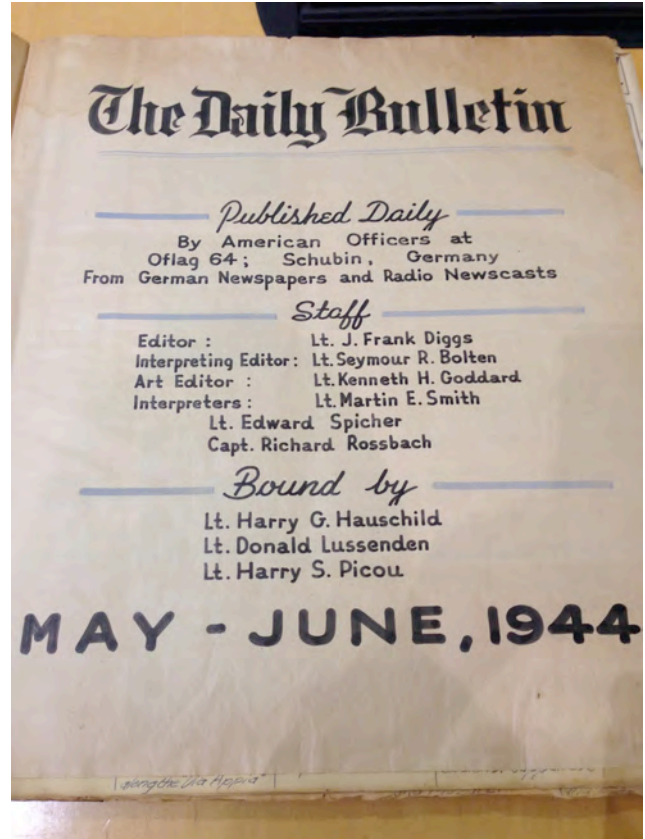
Left to Right:  
Major Merle A. Meacham  
Henry Söderberg perhaps?  
Lt. Col. William H. Schaefer  
Lt. Col. John K. Waters  
Col. Thomas D. Drake







The following photos were sent by Susanna Connaughton, daughter of Seymour Bolten. Seymour and Frank Diggs smuggled two bound volumes of the handwritten Daily Bulletins back to the states through Poland and Russia after leaving Oflag 64. How the volumes survived with relatively little wear and tear is amazing. We will add these and other similar photos to our website as time goes by.



The top photo shows the size of the volumes. The remaining photos are of different pages from that volume. Thanks to the late Frank Diggs and the late Seymour Bolten for realizing the importance of bringing them home.

These photos were sent to us by **Dave Stewart**, son of the late Kriegy Donald B. Stewart, after a trip to Poland in the Spring. They show the crumbling state of the remaining barrack at the site of Oflag 64. Outside, the roof is in sad disrepair, bricks are broken and falling apart. Inside looks much worse. Preservation efforts are very important if this barrack is to survive. "It's hanging on by a thread."



This article was sent by **Anne Kreutzer**, daughter of the late Kriegy Nathaniel Hoskot. It may look familiar to some of you, but we get a glimpse of history when we read or re-read these accounts.

# Red Army Rescue

## Those Russians Looked Mighty Good To the Half-Starved Yank Prisoners

By Associated Press

MOSCOW, Feb. 19 — Numerous American prisoners of the Germans have been liberated by the Russian offensive despite frantic Nazi efforts to march them westward.

(Measures for repatriation of liberated prisoners now are being taken in co-operation with the Soviet government, Major General J. Russell Deanne announced today in Moscow.

(Deanne, chief of the U. S. military mission in Moscow, said he had ordered an army detachment, including a medical officer, to proceed to Lublin where some of the American prisoners have already assembled. Other groups of prisoners are known to be sheltered in Praga, suburb of Warsaw, and farther west.

“Statements of our liberated soldiers and airmen all attest to fine treatment by the Poles and Russians, whether military or civilian,” Deane said.

(All the prisoners reaching here confirmed the old charge that the Germans provided a starvation diet for Allied officers and men alike.)

Their numbers have not yet been estimated, but the fact of their freedom was reported today by three escaped American officers who hitch-hiked across Poland and part of Russia as the adventurous vanguard of the others heading home by more conventional means.

The three are Captain Ernest M. Gruenberg, 29, New York, a doctor in the 101st Airborne Division; Lieutenant Frank H. Colley, 29, of Washington, Ga., a member of the 17th Field Artillery, and Lieutenant John N. Demling Jr., 30, Winston-Salem, N. C., a member of the 30th Infantry.

These men along with numerous others are from the German Prison Camp Oflag 64 at Szubin, Poland, between Poznan and Bydgoszcz.

Gruenberg was captured in Normandy, Colley in Tunisia and Demling on the Anzio beachhead.

### RETREAT TO FREEDOM

On January 21, the Germans herded the American officers who were able to walk out of the camp and started them west just ahead of the drive by Marshal G. K. Zhukov's First White Russian army.

The sick and wounded were left behind, but they now are in safe hands.

“We got out as best we could,” said Gruenberg, who was an interne in Washington, D. C., before the war. “Some of us built little sleds but most of us had to carry our stuff on our backs.”

The officers said for several days before they hurried off they saw the road — a secondary road — which passes the camp choked full of German civilians fleeing westward. There also were many Poles among them, apparently being forceably taken to Germany.

“We strung with them—us and our German Guard,” said Colley.

### FRIENDLY POLES

Asked for an estimate of the number of refugees, Gruenberg said, “I would say there were thousands upon thousands of them.”

“Did the German civilians mind you being mixed in their refugee column?” he was asked.

“Oh, a couple of women cursed us,” said the doctor. “But the Poles let us hitch our sleds and carts to their wagons. They gave us a wink.”

This column of frightened, fat German housewives, perspiring male civilians, minor members of the Nazi party, Polish slaves and U. S. officers in uniform slowed down near an estate. The Germans had taken the estate from a Pole.

“Our guards shoved us in the barn,” said Demling, “and with lots of other American soldiers we slept there for a night—a night which

turned out to be our last in captivity.”

While the American prisoners and German guards were resting at the manor, Marshal Zhukov's tanks were rolling westward rapidly.

### RED ARMY ARRIVES

They were too close for the German guards and as the tanks rumbled nearer, the guards disappeared.

The Americans made contact with the Poles during the morning and soon were sitting in the estate's banquet hall, bolting down food and drink brought them by Poles.

“Off in the distance we heard a lot of yelling,” said Gruenberg. “This was followed by the sound of tanks. We rushed to the window and there they were—the Red Army rolling up in Sherman tanks.”

The officers described this as the most beautiful sight they had ever seen.

“We all yelled,” said Gruenberg, “and before long some Red Army officers came to see us.

“They shook hands all around and we toasted one another, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalina. Then the Russians told us how wonderful were American tanks, trucks, jeeps and food. It was some party.”

### ‘SEE YOU LATER’

The officers were asked what instructions they got from the Russians.

“They told us to stay put,” they replied, “and that other units were coming up who would move us back. Then they saluted and said ‘we're on our way to Berlin—so long.’”

By 9 p. m., there had been a lot of American - Russian - Polish solidarity cemented with liquor and the natural high spirits of the occasion.

“We kept looking at the passing scene,” said Colley, “and there were many Shermans, Studebakers, Chevrolets, GM's, Fords, half-tracks, and so on.”

Colley said Zhukov's great stream kept up for hour after hour—tank after tank piled high with Russian infantrymen heading westward.

“Boy, those Russian-made tanks were something. I'd say they were about one and one-half times as big as our Shermans.”

The officers said they heard that a big column of British noncommissioned officers also had been freed by the Red Army.

The next day, a large group of Americans went to the town of Exin and, while they were waiting for transportation Gruenberg and two other American doctors set up a hospital with German medical supplies they found in a church.

The doctors worked alone until the Russians came in and set up a regular hospital. The American and Russian doctors worked side by side until the Americans left for Moscow.

## 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](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. **Dr. Graff Remembers: World War II Reflections**, a collection of editorials by Peter Carl Graffagnino, M.D., Publisher: Grateful Steps (Micki Cabaniss Eutsler), 828-277-0998. [http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections](http://www.amazon.com/Dr-Graff-Remembers-World-Reflections/dp/1935130544/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=8-1&keywords=Dr.+Graffagnino+Remembers%3A++World+War+II+Reflections)
5. **Home Was Never Like This.** Diary of Col Yardley. Publisher: Yardley Enterprises. Evergreen, CO. [http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this](http://www.amazon.com/Home-Was-Never-Like-This/dp/0971743908/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411079953&sr=1-1&keywords=HOME+WAS+never+like+this)
6. **Justifiable Pride** by William D. Stevens, Jamal Books, 2340 Devoe Drive, Lincoln NE 68506, 402-488-6005 [http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride](http://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Pride--Memoir-William-Stevens/dp/096732954X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411080041&sr=1-1&keywords=Justifiable+Pride)
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](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](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](http://www.amazon.com/Oflag-64-fiftieth-anniversary-book/dp/1879260239/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1226550698&sr=1-1)
10. **Oflag 64: A POW Odyssey**, Robert Galloway, 2001. Instant Amazon Video to rent or buy at: [https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00WGYXZTG?ie=UTF8&keywords=OFLAG&qid=1442345037&ref=sr\\_1\\_1&s=instant-video&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00WGYXZTG?ie=UTF8&keywords=OFLAG&qid=1442345037&ref=sr_1_1&s=instant-video&sr=1-1)
11. **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](http://www.amazon.com/Passages-Freedom-Story-Capture-Escape/dp/0897451317/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226550856&sr=1-1)

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](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](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 [http://www.amazon.com/Escape-Factory-Story-Mis-X/dp/0312925727/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551149&sr=1-1](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. [http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer](http://www.amazon.com/Road-War-Drill-Courage-Capture/dp/1450218806/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411081108&sr=1-1&keywords=the+road+to+war+burgauer)
16. **The Water and The Rock** by Charles Jones. Diary of a man captured in Africa. Publisher: Anchor Publishing Co., Northwood, IA (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE-9/18/14) [http://www.amazon.com/Water-Rock-Charles-L-Jones/dp/B000IXSZHO/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1226551381&sr=1-1](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](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](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](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:**

**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](mailto:dkanners@comcast.net)

**Roads to Liberation** by Clarence R. Meltesen is available free of charge except for approximately \$6 per copy shipping fee (ONE COPY LEFT). Please contact Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Meltesen family.) Also available on [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

**John K. Waters: An Oral History (The Waters Story)** by William C. Parnell - Contact Elodie Caldwell using contact information on the front page of this ITEM, \$15.99 includes S & H, write your check to the Oflag 64 Postage Fund. (Thank you Pat Waters for making copies available.)

A **1947 Oflag 64 Reunion Photo** is available for a \$5 donation to the Postage Fund (ONE COPY LEFT). Send your donation and request to Elodie Caldwell at the contact address on the front page of this ITEM. (Thank you Judy Fletcher.)

## Jonel C. Hill

1925 ~ 2016



A longtime resident of Pasadena, Jonel C. Hill was born and raised in Mankato, Minnesota by his mother and grandmother. Drafted in 1943 right out of high school, Jonel soon joined the 26th Infantry Regiment (F Company) of the famed 1st Infantry Division – or "Big Red One." He reached his Company in the midst of one of bloodiest and longest sustained battles the U.S. [Army](#) has ever fought, the Battle of Hurtgen Forest. After more than a month in the forest, F Company gained a foothold in the village of Merode, Germany. On November 29, 1944, a counterattack by the 5th German Parachute Regiment supported by artillery and Panzers cutoff F Company from reinforcement or escape. After house to house fighting, low on ammunition and without radio contact or artillery support, Jonel and other members of F Company were taken prisoner by the German Army.

Jonel and the other soldiers captured in the fighting at Merode were marched for days to the German rear, from where he was eventually transported to Oflag 64 in Szubin, Poland in the winter of 1944. "Liberated" by Russian Forces in January 1945, he was kept under deteriorating conditions as a detainee of the Russian Army. Eventually freed by the Russians in March 1945, Jonel made his way on foot and truck to Odessa, Russia where he found an Allied freighter that would take him to rejoin U.S. forces in Italy. With the war approaching an end in Europe, Jonel was transferred home to recover, and back to his girlfriend, Lois Kanable, who was the love of his life.



After marrying Lois, Jonel took a job with West Publishing Company, while serving in the Army Reserve and earning a bachelor's and law degree from the St. Paul College of Law at night. Advancing at West Publishing to case editor, Jonel soon parlayed his new law degree into a job as the Court Administrator for the Supreme Court of Oregon, and the young Hill family moved to Salem, Oregon in 1953.

Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield appointed Jonel Hill the sole Public Utilities Commissioner for the State of Oregon in 1959. For the next eight years, Jonel oversaw telephone, electric, gas, trucking and other regulated industries throughout the state of Oregon.

After a brief post with AT&T's legal department in New York, Jonel was recruited for his regulatory expertise by the Southern California Gas Company. The Hill Family moved to South Pasadena, California in 1969, and sixteen years later, he was appointed President. He served as President of the Southern California Gas Company until his retirement in 1990.

After relocating to Pasadena, Jonel was coaxed from retirement as part of Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan's effort to bring leading business executives and their ideas into city governance. He headed the City of Los Angeles' nascent Information Technology Agency from 1995 until his re-retirement in 1996.

In retirement, Jonel loved to travel with Lois and spend time at Lake Tahoe. He remained active at the California Club and in business groups, including the World Affairs Council. He enjoyed SC Football and any sport played by his grandchildren. He is survived by Lois, his loving wife of 69 years, their four children (Sherrill, Geoff, Bart and Trent), 9 grandkids and 7 great grandkids. He will be dearly missed.

Published in Pasadena Star-News from Apr. 23 to Apr. 24, 2016

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pasadenastarnews/obituary.aspx?n=jonel-c-hill&pid=179720836>

# *Paul D. Marable, Jr.*

1921 ~ 2013

1.



Paul Davis Marable, Jr. passed away Thursday, December 19, 2013, at the age of 92. A celebration of his life was held 10 a.m., Saturday, January 4, at First United Methodist Church, 4901 Cobbs Dr., Waco, Texas.

Paul grew up in Clarksville, Texas, and attended the University of Texas, graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism. Immediately after graduation, he volunteered for the U.S. Army, where he was commissioned as 2nd Lt., field artillery, and assigned to the 90th Infantry Division. In June, 1944, while serving as an artillery forward observer in the Normandy campaign, he was captured and spent the next "255 Days" - the title of a privately published memoir about his experiences - in a POW camp in Poland until liberated by Zhukov's Red Army.



In 1946, he married Betty Lou Lewis and began his career in the Waco Chamber of Commerce before becoming Manager of the Denison Chamber of Commerce. In 1951, he was recalled to active military duty and was posted to Japan as an artillery battery commander. When he returned, he joined the West Texas Chamber of Commerce in Abilene, eventually becoming its General Manager before returning to the Waco Chamber of Commerce in 1961, where he served as executive director. In 1976, he joined First Federal Savings and Loan as Executive Vice President, eventually becoming its President.

During his career and retirement, Paul served in many leadership positions in Waco and the state, including as President of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives, President of the Rotary Club of Waco, President of the Waco Symphony Association, Chairman of the Waco Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Waco Civic Chorus, Director of the Waco Industrial Foundation, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Methodist Home for Children in Waco, President of the Baylor-Waco Foundation, President of Inner-City Ministry, and Chairman of the Advisory Council for Baylor University Professional Development Center. He was a Director, Officer, Trustee, or Member of many other civic, educational, and service organizations, including the YWCA, the Board of Development of Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, the Central Texas Rehabilitation Center, United Way, Caritas, and the Advisory Committee of Baylor's School of Education. He was instrumental in the establishing of MCC and was appointed a lifetime member of the Providence Health Center Foundation.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Betty Lewis Marable; four children, Betty Sue Flowers, Paul Davis Marable, III, Linda Ruth Murdock, and Robert Lewis Marable; ten grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; a brother, Allen Marable; and a sister, Ann Priest.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Paul D. Marable, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund, McLennan Community College Foundation, 1400 College Drive, Waco, Texas 76708.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory in our "Memorial Guestbook" at [www.WilkirsonHatchBailey.com](http://www.WilkirsonHatchBailey.com)

August 27, 1921 - December 19, 2013  
Sign the Guest Book at [www.wacotrib.com](http://www.wacotrib.com)

[http://www.wacotrib.com/obituaries/marable-jr-paul/article\\_24d75759-8491-5929-8aa3-761a6d4eec29.html#user-comment-area](http://www.wacotrib.com/obituaries/marable-jr-paul/article_24d75759-8491-5929-8aa3-761a6d4eec29.html#user-comment-area)

# *Daniel F. O'Leary*

1919 ~ 2014



Daniel Franklin O'Leary, age 95 of Appleton, Wisconsin, left this life on December 4, 2014. He was born the second of nine children on March 22, 1919 in Wausau, Wisconsin, the son of Clara (Ohm) and Daniel O'Leary. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, whom he married on April 9, 1943 at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Margaret and Daniel recently celebrated their 71st anniversary and were life-long members of Sacred Heart Parish.

Daniel served in the European Theater during WWII and was captured in Poland and then force-marched from Oflag 64 to Stalag 111A in Germany, where he was held as a prisoner of war. After his release, he trained as an Air Observation pilot, leaving the military with the rank of Captain. He then began his financial career with Thorp Finance in Wausau and at retirement held a position in Consumer Finance at ITT in Wauwatosa. Daniel also volunteered at the VA Clinic in Appleton for 17 years and treasured his time there.



He is survived by his wife Margaret and his sons: Terrence (Cindy) of Appleton; Peter (Leslie) of Vernonia, Oregon; and daughters: Sharon O'Leary (Jud Isebrands) of New London; Pamela Smith (Bruce) of Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin; and Patti Meiers (Bruce) of Appleton. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Eric Jensen of Pine City, Minnesota; Michael Jensen (Casey) of Chicago; Matthew Smith (Kelly) of Milwaukee; Ellie Henry (Jeff) of Appleton; Nick Meiers (fiancee Katie Davis) of Shakopee, MN; Rebecca Meiers of Madison; Viktoria O'Leary of Appleton, Madeline O'Leary of Vernonia, Oregon; and his great-grandchild: Audrey Smith. He is further survived by brother Tom O'Leary (Judy) of Alamo, Texas; sisters: Lorraine Genrich of Wausau; Pat Peterson (Don) of Wausau; Shirley Kittel (Gene) of Green Bay; Nancy Zelich (Marko) of Wausau; and brother-in-law: Thomas Sullivan (Ruth) of Manawa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Milton, Kenneth, and Donald; brothers-in-law: Gordon Genrich, Michael Sullivan, and John Sullivan; and sister-in-law: Mary Belongia.

The funeral liturgy for Daniel was held at 1:30 PM on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, 222 E. Fremont Street in Appleton, with Fr. Donald Zuleger officiating. Family and friends were invited to gather at the church on Saturday from 12:30 PM until the time of the liturgy. Interment took place at Appleton Highland Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to St. Joseph Food Program.

Special thanks to the staff at the Manor Care and Rennes nursing homes, Heartland Hospice, and for the care by Sue Fitzgerald.

Online obituaries found at:

<http://www.wichmannfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Daniel-F.-O-Leary/Appleton-WI/1457792>

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wausadailyherald/obituary.aspx?pid=173367714>

# *Donald R. Wernette*

1919 - 2010

Mecosta – Donald (Don) R. Wernette, 90, of Mecosta, passed away peacefully on Thursday May 27,



2010 at Royal View Retirement Community in Mecosta.

He was born December 16, 1919 on Franklin Street in Mecosta, MI the son of Christian and Leah (Crane) Wernette. He graduated from Mecosta Rural Agricultural School in 1938. He attended Eastern Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) for two years.

Don was a proud WWII veteran serving in the 126th Infantry Division in Italy. He was interned for one year in a German Prison camp in Poland. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army he returned to Michigan and started the National Guard Unit in Big Rapids. He served in the Guard in various capacities in Muskegon, Wyoming, and Lansing and retired in 1971 with 29 years of service from the Support Command in Lansing. He owned Wernette Redi-Mix, Inc in Mecosta.



He served his community on the Mecosta School Board, Mecosta County Road Commission and was a member of the Albert Schiffer Post #2335 VFW.

Don was preceded in death by his first wife, Roberta (Bradin) Wernette, second wife Violet (Cummings) Wernette; his parents, Christian and Leah (Crane) Wernette, Sister's, Dorothy (Wernette) Mitchell, Leah (Wernette) Thon, brother, Harold (Bud) Wernette; Step-son, Garry Braden, Grandsons, Will and Jon Shepard, Alex Squire. Don is survived by his children Terry (Jim) Addington, Mary (Bill) Schoner, Betty (Dave) Babian, Ed (Kim) Wernette, daughter-in-law Nawal (Braden) Swart. 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild.

Funeral Services were held Saturday May 29, 2010 11am from the Crittenden-Hansen Funeral Home of Remus, MI.. Officiating was Fr. Michael Burt and Deacon Bob Cathcart. Burial in the Mt. Hope Cemetery of Mecosta. In lieu of flowers donations may be given to the VFW, Morton Twp. Library or Hospice. For online obit and register book see [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com).

Online obituary was found at:

<http://www.legacy.com/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=143167471>

## *Thomas J. C. Williams*

*1915 ~ 2001*

Thomas John Chew Williams Sr., an electrical engineer and veteran, died 2001 of a heart ailment at his home in Alexandria, Va. He was 86.

An engineer for the Federal Aviation Administration, he helped design the runway lights for Washington Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va. Earlier, he had worked for Bethlehem Steel's Key Highway ship repair yard in Federal Hill and for Georgia Power Co.

Born in Baltimore and raised on Calvert Street in Charles Village, he was a graduate of Calvert School and Polytechnic Institute, where he played lacrosse and football and was manager of the basketball team. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at the Johns Hopkins University in 1934.

He was commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers in 1941 and was stationed in England. In June 1944, he went ashore at Normandy, France. Captured by the Germans in Luxembourg and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Poland, he was liberated in 1945. He left military service with the rank of major.



Mr. Williams married Maude Brown Anderson in 1939. She survives.

Services were held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Lappans Road in Boonsboro, Washington County.

He also is survived by a daughter, Maude Anderson Williams of Arlington, Va.; three sons, Thomas J. C. Williams Jr. of Springfield, Va., W. Alexander Williams of Leesburg, Va., and James Maddox Williams of Geneseo, N.Y.; and five grandchildren.

Published in The Baltimore Sun 1/9/01 - See the obituary (middle of the page) at:

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2001-01-09/news/0101090371\\_1\\_electrical-engineer-maude-degree-in-electical](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2001-01-09/news/0101090371_1_electrical-engineer-maude-degree-in-electical)

